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Thursday March 7 1996

Alex D. 0.8	Hong Kong HK\$ 25	Pakistan R 70
Andorra FF 10	Indonesia Rp 200	Poland Z 2 70
Antigua \$ 60	Iranian R 50	Portugal \$ 200
Aruba D 1.8	India Ru 55	Romania L 1 200
Bahrain D 2.75	Israel NIS 5.50	Russia R 50
Bangladesh T 80	Italy L 2,000	Saudi Arabia R 10
Belarus Br 170	Japan Y 125	Slovakia SK 16
Belize B 2.00	Korea W 100	Slovenia S 200
Bhutan Nu 2.50	Latvia L 25	Spain P 225
Cyprus C 1 00	Lithuania L 200	Sweden SK 16
Czechia CZ 20	Malaysia M 2.50	Switzerland SF 3
Denmark Dk 16	Luxembourg LF 55	Thailand B 50
Dominican DR 15	Malta Mt 0.45	Turkey TL 100.00
Egypt E 2	Morocco D 15	Ukraine U 200
Estonia K 30	Netherlands G 4 00	USA \$ 1.75
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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
46,494

How did a single gunman shoot three drug dealers?



Guardian 2 with European weather

OnLine

How they cloned a sheep

G2 pages 10/13

What will Nunn do with the National?

Clever Trevor

G2 Arts page 5



Treetop party as machine army circles

John Vidal, above, who recently went undercover as a Newbury bypass security guard, now joins protesters in defences 100ft above the ground

THE CB radio crackled into life at 6am. "What's coming?" "Yellow coats." "Hundreds." "Roger, Charlie, I think we have a hit." In the dawn half-light, 40 or so Reddings Copse protesters whoop. "I've been waiting for this five months," says Howie and then shouts into the morning: "Come and get us, if you think you're tall enough."

Eight coach-loads of security guards are running across the fields. The protesters greet them with their war cry of "Arupa", and drums begin beating between the trees.

Howie, Greg, Bob, Jim, Danny, Blue, Alex, Hughie and a dozen others have slept for three hours but are now working feverishly to further defend The Pine. It is the tallest and straightest tree on the Newbury bypass route, 150ft high with tree houses at 100 and 130 feet.

At the very tip, a ladder reaches over everything with a defiant flag. From here all Berkshire can be seen, as can the full length of the bypass route already a 100-yard wide, nine-mile long trail of mud and broken trees.

Within 15 minutes, The Pine and four 90ft oak trees, each with a house, are surrounded. There are protest drums and the adrenalin is soaring. Everyone will be arrested, many possibly jailed.

People clamber out of the houses to cling to branches and broadcast credos to the State below. "This money should be spent on education." "We'd rather die like lions than live like you lot."

The Pine's lower tree house is solid enough—a mix of domestic cosiness with a stove, carpets and kitchen—and rock-hard road-slows' tools.

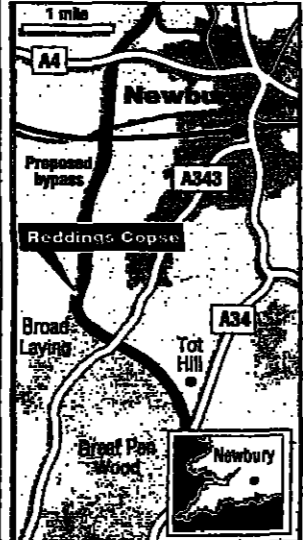
There are bicycles, locks, D clamps, wires (barbed and straight), hooks, padlocks, chains and handcuffs to lock on to the tree when the bailiffs inevitably arrive.

Soon, there is a low distant rumble. With Wagnerian overstatement, 200 more guards are escorting four mechanical diggers through a field. They crash and crush all before them. The last one carries a blazing fire in its bucket. "They've brought their own damn-hell torch," says Bob.

The machines metaphorically beat their chests, raising their digging arms in mock salute to the protesters. "It's a bloody siege," says someone from



The fortified pine. 'Come and get us, if you think you're tall enough' PHOTOGRAPH GARRY WEAVER



the roof. "It's the bloody State steamrolling everything," says another. Enter Balin. He is famous for his 16-day vigil up a tripod on part of the route. He arrives without climbing harness, having free-climbed across four trees and 50 yards of aerial ropeway, beginning his ascent outside the guards'

security cordon. "To tell the truth, I was pooping myself," he says. He has a black eye and bruising from an eviction two days previously. He talks of pressing charges. "It's a hell of a pad you've got here." He helps dress the tree further in wire and recommends smearing margarine on the branches. Then he curls up and half sleeps.

The day wears on. The bailiffs have still not arrived and it becomes clear that the real action is at other camps. Sheriff's officers have arrested 17 protesters and cleared six tree houses at a camp at Bagnor on the northern part of the route. Another campaigner has been held in Reddings Copse.

By mid-afternoon, as the machines gather closer to the base of the tree houses, it dawns on everyone that there will be no evictions from the camp today. There is a mix of relief for the trees and anti-climax.

"Okay, let's party," says Bob. A guitar is banged up from the base of the tree and a water container becomes a drum.



Down on the ground the machines and guards circle the huge pine tree ever more tightly, completely drowning the music and the talk above. Smoke from the brush fires and burning trees obscures the landscape. The cordon moves in another yard. Now they are actually in the camp site.

"Tomorrow, mate," says one of the security guards as we abseil down the 100 feet to the ground. "Tomorrow we get you."

Judge flays Howard over 'unjust' plans

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, last night mounted a scathing attack on the Home Secretary's plans for mandatory life sentences for repeat rapists and violent offenders and stiff minimum terms for persistent burglars and drug dealers.

The senior judge in England and Wales said the plans, due to be published in a White Paper this spring, would cause injustice and would not work. The evidence that a harsher sentencing regime "will achieve anything beyond a bonanza for prison architects simply does not exist."

He added: "All the wishful thinking in the world will not convince anyone that crime in America has fallen because of their sentencing policy."

Speaking at King's College, London, Lord Taylor said the plans would be frustrated if judges had no discretion to reduce sentences.

Lord Taylor echoed Lord Justice Rose's concern that repeat rapists who know they face a mandatory life sentence would kill their victims.

"I wonder whether a repeat rapist, faced with an automatic life sentence, will not think it less risky to cut his losses by killing the only witness to his crime. He may then escape conviction altogether."

Finally, said Lord Taylor: "I disagree with these proposals because I am quite sure



These proposals will not work... I have no doubt that what primarily deters crime is the likelihood of detection'

— Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice

sentencing proposals were first announced but had since refrained from commenting while awaiting the White Paper.

However, the motivation behind the judiciary's objections had been misinterpreted, he said, and he felt obliged to clarify them.

Mr Howard's proposals have drawn strong criticism from other senior figures in the judiciary, including the former Master of the Rolls Lord Donaldson, and from churchmen and penal reform campaigners.

Mr Howard said last night that life sentences were needed for serious violent and sexual offenders because unless they got life they had to be released at the end of their sentences, even if they were still a danger to the public.

Persistent burglars and drug dealers were "a menace to society", he added. "The public need to be protected from them. The Government believes that they deserve long stretches in prison. In some cases they do get them, but in many cases they do not."

The Home Office said the average sentence length for a first time domestic burglary in the Crown Court in 1993/94 was 18.2 months, and for a seventh offence or more it was only slightly higher at 19.4 months.

"There is surprisingly little progression in these figures. The Government firmly believes that if the public is to be protected, and if a clear message is to be sent to the criminal that crime does not pay, then action must be taken."

Dole claims party crown

Martin Walker
in Washington

THE Republican senator Robert Dole virtually nailed down his party's presidential nomination yesterday after winning eight primary states and the endorsement of two candidates who withdrew from the race, Governor Lamar Alexander and Senator Richard Lugar.

Although the publishing billionaire Steve Forbes and the rightwing radical Pat Buchanan will battle on, and although two-thirds of the primaries are still to be fought, the 1996 election is shaping up as a clash between Mr Dole and President Bill Clinton.

This would echo the contest which Mr Clinton won four years ago against another veteran of the second world war, George Bush.

"In Bob Dole, we have found a candidate who can bring the Republican party together," Mr Dole claimed yesterday.

He laughed off questions about his age — he will be 73 in July — by saying: "I have got lower blood pressure and lower cholesterol than Clinton, but I won't make health an issue in this campaign."

The usual drama of the election year appears to be ending prematurely, although Mr Forbes's campaign received a last-minute filip on the eve of today's New York primary. Jack Kemp, a popular local

football star, former congressman and cabinet member finally endorsed him.

New York opinion polls suggested that Mr Dole, the senate leader, would gain more votes than Mr Forbes and Mr Buchanan combined.

Mr Buchanan said yesterday he would stay in the race — although he now seems to be more concerned with leading conservatives and the religious right.

There was no comment from the White House yesterday, but with opinion polls showing Mr Clinton with a double-digit lead over Mr Dole, the president and his aides are more than confident.

Mr Alexander and Mr Lugar withdrew following a clean sweep by Mr Dole of the eight "Junior Tuesday" states: Georgia, Colorado, Maryland and the five New England states.

Mr Dole's victory was less than triumphant, after losing the early primaries in New Hampshire to Mr Buchanan and Delaware and Arizona to Mr Forbes.

Governor George Pataki of New York is poised to deliver its 102 delegates to Mr Dole in today's primary. The governor of Texas, George Bush junior, yesterday joined his father, the former president, in endorsing Mr Dole in advance of next week's Super Tuesday primary in the south next week.

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2 NEWS

The Newspaper Focus Award for Outstanding Achievement

Awarded to the Guardian, March 5, by a panel of judges including Sir David Frost, Kelvin Mackenzie and Magnus Linklater, who said the newspaper had shown an exceptional ability to set the agenda for debate and to speak powerfully to and on behalf of its readers. This is the citation in full

The best stories are in The Guardian

The Guardian has shown an outstanding performance on all these fronts. It has, with the appointment of Alan Rusbridger as editor, been rejuvenated. New writers have been brought in to strengthen it editorially, and the launch of the A5 Guide in the north of England in September boosted the paper's Saturday sale in the region by eight per cent and as much as 15 per cent in some cities. The Friday Review was launched in the spring to strengthen the paper's coverage of the arts, books and music. More recently, it launched GO2, the first dedicated information technology supplement by a British newspaper, not on newsprint but on the internet. It was also no slouch at getting the stories, and at setting an agenda which other papers felt obliged to follow. The Guardian showed that with the publication of Labour's secret strategy document, and leaked cabinet papers showing splits on race, education and lottery funding. The Guardian has also demonstrated that, in spite of the commercial pressures on it, it is not afraid to go out on a limb. It was the only one of the nationals to publish the disturbing picture of a refugee woman in Bosnia hanging from a tree in the woods near a refugee camp. The stillness of that image spoke more about the pain of that war than any number of pictures of combatants or wrecked buildings.

The decision to publish the spread with a 5,000 word attempt by Myra Hindley to explain her crimes was courageous, and it came in for criticism, not least from other newspapers. A paper that is secure enough in itself to go against the grain and explore contrary views deserves our admiration. There are few politicians prepared to do that these days, and if it were not for newspapers like the Guardian we would all be worse off. 1995 was also the year in which the paper reaped the benefit of having taken the right decisions at the start of the price war. News International might have shown that newspapers can definitely be sold on price. But the Guardian also showed that you don't have to play that game. By holding its price, in spite of a frightening differential of up to 25 pence against its main rivals at times, and investing in its editorial strengths, it managed to maintain sales of around 404,000 in the autumn — the same as the corresponding period in 1994. By doing so, the Guardian showed, more than any other paper, the value of a newspaper as a brand, standing for values which go beyond the mere physical product that people buy every day, and for which its readers are prepared to continue to pay a premium.

Editor of the year

Alan Rusbridger
 ● National Newspaper Editor of the Year, Newspaper Focus awards, March 5
 ● Newspaper Editor of the Year, What the Papers Say Awards, February 16



Colour Supplement of the year

Weekend
 ● National Colour Supplement of the year, Newspaper Focus awards, March 5



<p>January 11</p> <p>Exclusive: 'The shame I felt in chains — I just wanted to die'</p>	<p>January 6</p> <p>Exclusive: Arms bosses' secret plot</p>	<p>December 18</p> <p>Exclusive: Myra Hindley: my life, my guilt, my weakness</p>	<p>October 24</p> <p>Exclusive: Police chaos exposed</p>	<p>October 5</p> <p>Exclusive: Cabinet split on race issue</p>	<p>September 12</p> <p>Exclusive: Labour's secret strategy</p>
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The best writers are in The Guardian



Chechen assault surprises Russians

Up to 1,000 rebels storm Grozny amid reports 'Lone Wolf' is dead

James Meek in Moscow

RUSSIA'S president, Boris Yeltsin, will confer with his national security advisers today about the deepening crisis in Chechnya after troops battled throughout yesterday to repel a full-scale assault by separatist rebels on the Chechen capital, Grozny. The dawn attack — thought to have been mounted with today's meeting in mind — appears to have caught the Russians by surprise and to have led to some of the fiercest fighting seen in Grozny since it was captured by federal troops a year ago. The attack came amid reports of the death of the Chechen guerrilla leader Salman Raduyev — known as the "Lone Wolf" — who had led a large-scale assault in January on the town of Kizlyar in Dagestan. Raduyev's death robs the rebels of one of their more able, ruthless and best-known leaders, who was aged just 28. During the raid on Kizlyar, 2,000 people were taken hostage in a hospital. Raduyev negotiated his way to the village of Pervomayskaya on Dagestan's border with Chechnya, held the night of the Russian military at bay for a week and then escaped home with many of his men and a large number of captives. Formerly the mayor of Chechnya's second town, Gudermes, Raduyev was shot in the head in mysterious circumstances at the weekend, according to some reports by members of a rival rebel group. He died in hospital in the town of Urus-Martan. At one point during yesterday's assault, a rebel televi-



Legendary rebel... Salman Raduyev, the 'Lone Wolf' who in January led the attack on Kizlyar, Dagestan, is reported to have been shot by rivals

sion transmitter interrupted Russian programmes and broadcast footage of the Chechen leader. Dzhokhar Dudayev saying that the administrative buildings in Grozny would be stormed. Last night, the rebels were said to have taken over the city's power station and to have blown up three tanks holding its water supply. "With the coming of darkness, the situation has become more difficult," said Yuri Pligin, a local official.

General Vyacheslav Tikhonov, the Russian commander, said the rebels had wanted to "show off their strength on the eve of the [national security council] meeting". Yesterday's raid began with attacks on 10 federal checkpoints in separate districts of Grozny. The separatists made a determined and possibly successful attempt to penetrate to the city centre. Last night, officials of the Moscow-backed Chechen administration spoke of snipers in the centre.

The rebels were also said to have tried to reach the airport, where federal troops are based. One witness spoke of seeing three Russian armoured vehicles destroyed by Chechen rockets. In one district, the rebels seized and set fire to a police station. Later, federal forces claimed to have surrounded fighters at the key Minutka roundabout and the bus station. Speaking by telephone from Grozny, a reporter for the

state-run first channel Ostankino said the number of rebels now thought to be in the city was estimated at up to 1,000. He said 25 members of the federal forces had been killed. The reporter said a number of Chechen policemen supposedly loyal to Moscow had gone over to the rebel side. Russian forces were using "aviation" against the separatists, he added. The latest attack comes as refugees continue to flee the Chechen village of Sernovodsk, under Russian siege, and provides a gloomy background for today's national security council meeting.

Mr Yeltsin, who has been actively campaigning for reelection since February, has repeatedly spoken of the need for a settlement of the Chechen conflict, which has claimed 30,000 lives. But the Russian president has ruled out withdrawing federal troops, independence for Chechnya or talks with General Dudayev.

Woman jailed after death of her baby applies to exhume body

Mark Tran in New York

CAROLINE BEALE, who pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of her newborn baby, is making arrangements for the body to be exhumed from a pauper's grave and cremated, and for the ashes to be taken to England for a church service. Ms Beale and her parents were stunned to learn that the girl had already been buried. They thought the corpse was still being held at the Queens County Mortuary in New York until Ms Beale's case was resolved. An official said the body was sent for burial because it was unclaimed. "We were holding it for 14 months," said a spokeswoman. The body was buried in a pauper's grave at Potters Field,

near Riker's Island jail where Ms Beale spent eight months. Ms Beale, aged 31, who is due to fly to England today, found out about the burial on Tuesday when she and her parents were at the British consulate to arrange for the body to be taken to England. "She was shaken," said British consul Michael Dwyer, "but not unduly distressed." In pleading guilty to manslaughter on Monday after a plea bargain, Ms Beale avoided a painful trial. She will be under probation for five years and subject to psychiatric care. Ms Beale, who concealed her pregnancy from family and friends, was arrested at Kennedy Airport 18 months ago as she tried to smuggle the body on to a flight to England.

Rock turkey with all the trimmings — except beans

First night

Dan Glaister

Tommy Shaftesbury Theatre

THE premiere of Tommy — "A New Musical", was one of London Theatreland's big, schlocky events; stars, sequins and crash barriers combining to stop the traffic. Inside, Theatreland had been taken over by the Rockocracy; fake tans, the odd

medallion, even men in sunglasses thronged the foyer. Tommy, for those who have been elsewhere, is one of the prime examples of that 1960s turkey, the rock opera. A traumatized deaf, dumb 'n' blind boy finds freedom, truth, but not justice, through pinball. Tommy becomes a 40-point bonus ball messiah, until the people move on, FieKle, fame. Not for Pete Townshend though. The guitarist and songwriter of The Who wrote this in 1965. Tommy grew up and became a concept album and Ken Russell film. Today, you can buy the CD-ROM.

Back then, Tommy was an anti-high art statement. Now, The 'Oo are the establishment and Pete's stage version of Tommy has run on Broadway. Regardless, it is the film that is familiar, and comparisons are difficult to avoid. This is an energetic production, perhaps too energetic. Blink and you risk missing a whole scene. Go to the toilet and young Tommy will have become teenage Tommy. The whole business gets off to an impressive start with a trademark Townshend power chord cutting through the chatter before the house lights

go down. A lengthy overture ensues until it becomes apparent that the overture has finished and the whole thing is going at breakneck pace. Where the film had Roger Daltrey as Tommy and Ann-Margret as Mummy, the stage has Paul Keating, the most celebrated shell-stacker in the history of supermarkets, as Tommy, and Kim Wilde as Mumm. Keating is impressive, but there are only glimpses of him in the first half. Before that, Tommy is portrayed aged 4 and 10. You feel great sympathy for the small children involved.

Flying in from the wings, Keating makes telling appearances as a sort of Tommy ex machina. He has an intensity and a lithe figure, although not the voice to match Daltrey. Still, his voice is not bad, which is more than can be said for most of the company. Ian Bartholomew as Uncle Ernie, the part taken by Keith Moon in the film, has a good time doing a Leonard Rossiter impression, although thankfully he lacks Moon's menace. Nicola Hughes goes for an out and out imitation of Tina Turner as the Acid Queen and gets away with it. The star of

the show, however, is John Arnone's design. Gantry, video monitors, back projections and tinted photographs are all used to great effect. What everyone wants to know about is the baked beans. Ann-Margret wallowed for all she was worth in a sea of baked beans. Would Kim Wilde do the same? Unfortunately, stage and screen parted on the bean scene. There were no beans, no chocolate sauce and no bubbles. There was a fun time though. The air guitar in the aisle confirmed that. This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

New York, Summer 1954. One man is dead. The life of another is at stake.

Michael Edwards and Carol Winter present the Bristol Old Vic Production

KEVIN DIGNAM
ROBERT EAST
TONY HAYGARTH
TIM HEALY
MAURICE KAUFMANN
ALAN MacNAUGHTAN
DOUGLAS MCFERRAN
STUART RAYNER
CHRISTOPHER SIMON
PETER VAUGHAN
TIMOTHY WEST
KEVIN WHATELY

REGINALD ROSE'S
TWELVE
ANGRY
MEN

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 Set Designer **EILEEN DISS**
 Costume Designer **TOM RAND**
 Lighting Designer **MICK HUGHES**
 Sound Designer **TOM LISMAN**

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Thousands besiege Swan Hunter to seek work on new £50m contract

Waiting in line

DICK Gonzalez, the former electricians' union shop steward who led the trade union campaign to keep Swan Hunter alive, doubts if his face will fit with the new employers.

He feels more sorry for his brother, an identical twin. They were first in line, at 7am, for a recent job interview. They heard nothing.

"I've been out of work for 14 months and must have 200 applications out," said the man who employed his negotiating skills to galvanise a community into the "Save Our Swans" campaign. He feels his enthusiasm to preserve work at Swan Hunter might have cost him future work.

"At one local company I couldn't even get in the main gate," said the former plumber and welder from North Shields, happy yesterday to celebrate the chance of new job opportunities for former workmates.

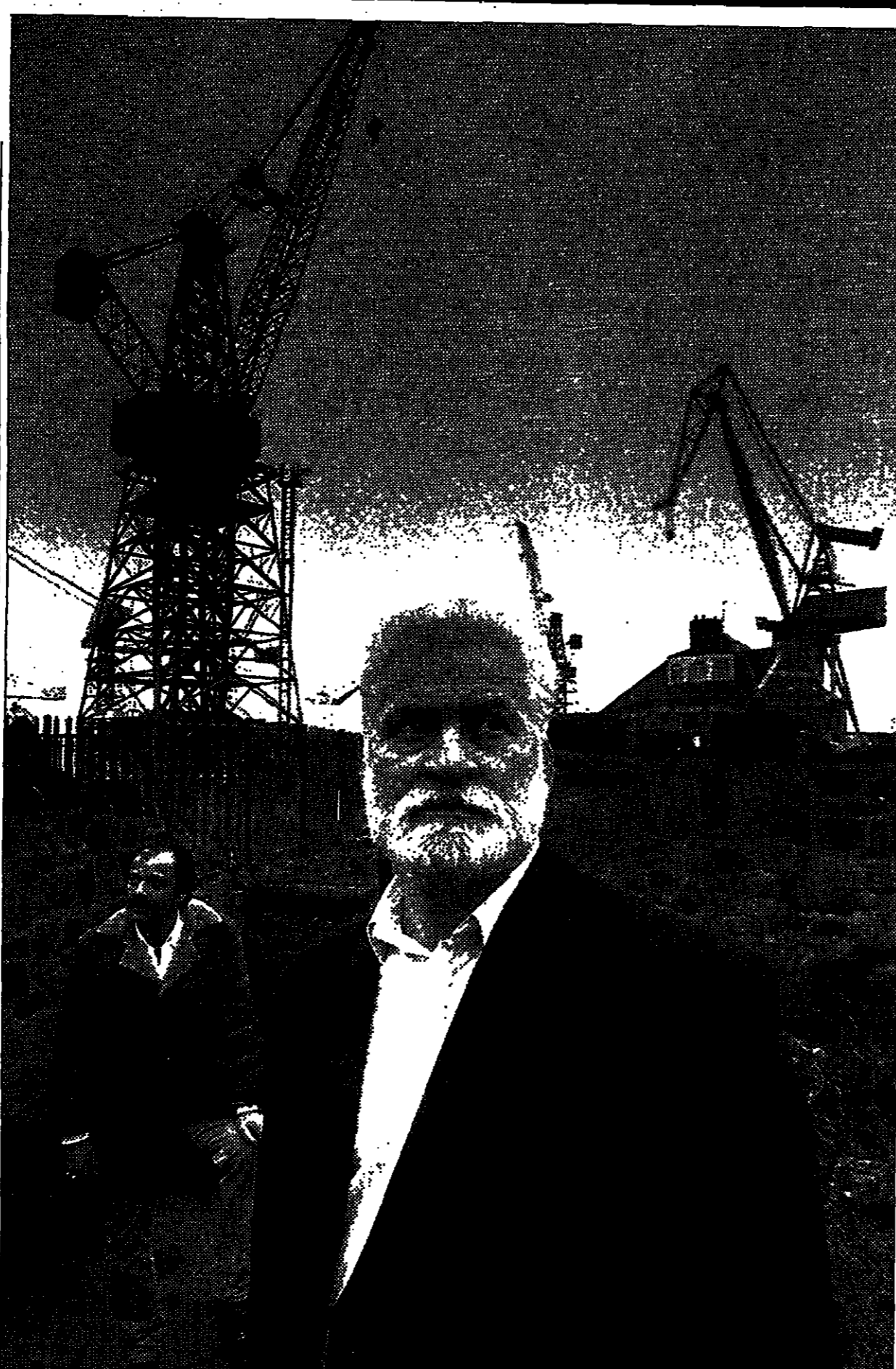


FORMER Swan Hunter draughtsman Peter Chapman (above) has watched the rising tide of hope for new jobs at the yard from his voluntary job in the Wallsend People's Centre. His work advising other ex-Swan Hunter employees about employment rights and opportunities was the only thing available after 23 years in the yard he joined from school, he said.

"I applied for over 100 jobs in the 12 months I was on the dole, and the only interview I got was for a union-related job," said the former MSF shop steward.

He has seen many skilled colleagues obtain work but some have had to go to Australia or the Far East. Six former Swan Hunter colleagues were working on the Solitaire in Singapore when the decision was made to move the contract to Swans, he said. They returned to Tyneside having lost several months' rent, paid in advance.

Other former Swan Hunter employees have been glad to come home from Europe in the hope of fresh work, he said. "The money they were getting paid isn't that great and doesn't really compensate them for their skills and being away from their homes and families."



Dick Gonzalez yesterday: "I've been out of work 14 months and must have 200 applications out" PHOTOGRAPH BY TED DITCHBURN

Rush for shipyard jobs

Martyn Halsell

THOUSANDS of Tynesiders, many of them jobless for several years, are besieging the once-magnificent Swan Hunter shipyard and local job centres for one of the temporary 1,200 jobs on a new £50 million contract announced yesterday.

The yard, rescued at the last minute by a Dutch company nine months ago, and local employment services are trying to process at least 300 job applications a day. By last night more than 4,000 people, two-thirds of them former Swan employees, had applied.

Applications, in an area where male unemployment is 16.4 per cent, started rolling in days ago when adverts appeared requesting specialist workers for an unnamed project. But several are known to have come from former employees working abroad, including the Far East. Eddie Derks, co-ordinator of the campaign to save the

yard, said: "Many have not worked since the last ship left the yard in November 1994 and more have not been employed for nearly three years. We would urge the new owners to consider seriously the skills and talents of former Swan workers."

Local union leaders hailed the contract, for finishing the conversion of the world's biggest pipe-laying vessel, as signalling the re-emergence of the 138-year-old Swan Hunter yard. "Like a phoenix rising from the ashes,"

The Wallsend-based yard employed 2,400 people when it went into receivership in May 1993 after failing to win a helicopter carrier contract for the Royal Navy. It has a permanent core staff of just 20.

Now owned by the Dutch firm, THC, it won the contract for converting the Solitaire, a 1,188ft long vessel, against competition from Germany, France and Italy.

The Solitaire, due to start laying pipelines for Statoil in the North Sea at the end of

this year, was being refitted in Singapore. But the contract was terminated last year when work was three-quarters completed, and the huge vessel is now sailing to the Tyne.

"As Solitaire sails up the river next month, the sheer magnitude will without doubt remind people of the days past, when Swan Hunter was world-renowned for turning out major ships and specialised vessels," said Jan Vonder, Swan's project manager. "We expect the very best of those employed to show the construction industry that Swan Hunter can again be a name associated with first-class performance."

But he stressed the 1,200 jobs would be on a contract basis with the bulk of the work completed by the end of the year. The company is now looking for other contracts.

Some 1,500 jobs are to be created at the MetroCentre in nearby Gateshead in a £50 million investment announced by Capital Shopping Centres yesterday.

Blair 'lookalike' Dorrell lines-up early challenge

Major nod to Patten starts jostle for job

Michael White Political Editor

JOHN Major's appointment of former Conservative party chairman, Chris Patten, as his heir apparent last night threatened to re-open the wounds of last year's leadership contest as candidates from the left and right began manoeuvring to succeed the Prime Minister.

The Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, is already lining up to become the leadership candidate of the moderate Conservatives if, as expected, the Government's defeat next year triggers the decisive battle for the future direction of the Tory party.

Mr Dorrell, who yesterday unveiled an action plan to tackle the acute shortage of emergency hospital beds, believes that neither the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, nor the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine — whom some Tories believe will step down at the election — will be able to maximise the moderate-to-mainstream vote.

The Health Secretary, aged 44 this month, who was ignored by Lady Thatcher for

most of the 1990s, is quietly making friends and seeking to neutralise the NHS as a Labour election issue.

Every Tory candidate chosen for a safe or winnable seat gets a welcoming letter from him.

"Stephen would be a very strong candidate," one supporter said last night. "He's much leaner and fitter and doesn't carry Clarke's baggage on Europe," said another. Some Tories believe their colleagues would see Mr Dorrell — a year younger than Tony Blair, but an MP for longer — as the ideal "lookalike" to beat the Labour leader.

The Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, is generally thought to have the largest and best-funded organisation, including a database of all potential Tory MPs in the next parliament. He is anxious to regain rightwing ground lost during last summer's leadership challenge by John Redwood.

Despite Mr Major's fulsome praise of Mr Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, after their meeting in the territory this week, the obstacles to him fulfilling the "heir apparent" hype leaves the potential

field wide open. Mr Patten is unlikely to be an MP, let alone a candidate, unless Mr Major can hang on — as allies say he will try to do. Hong Kong sources insisted last night that Mr Patten is still undecided how to renew his public service career in mid-1997 — too late for Britain's general election.

The conventional wisdom about the direction in which a Patten-led Tory party would go. Senior backbencher John Townend said: "I think the Conservative Party has now got to be led from the centre-right and, clearly, Chris Patten is the centre-left."

And in an implicit warning to Mr Major, he added: "I don't think it's possible for one leader to parachute his choice into the position of leader when he retires." The conventional wisdom suggests the Tories will shift sharply to the right in defeat, which would damage Mr Dorrell, given his past support of the Tory Reform Group — who once admitted the attractions of the Social Democrats. Others argue the right's ascendancy is exaggerated.

Letters, page 8; Hugo Young, page 9

Pakistan N-test 'ready'

Suzanne Goldenberg in Islamabad

PAKISTAN is prepared and ready to conduct its first underground nuclear explosion if its traditional foe India goes ahead with its own plans for an atomic test, reports based on United States intelligence sources said yesterday.

The intelligence reports — evidence of growing US fears about an Asian nuclear-arms race — came as a former army chief told the Washington Post they have satellite pictures showing a Pakistani test shaft in the Chagai hills being cleaned up.

The area was linked to Pakistan's nuclear programme as early as the 1970s, and for many years, Washington was privy to the country's efforts to acquire a bomb.

General Mirza Aslam Beg, who as army chief was in charge of Pakistan's nuclear programme in the late 1980s, told the Guardian that the US deliberately overlooked evidence from its own officials that Islamabad had nuclear capability as early as 1987 to safeguard its cold-war interests. Gen Beg said the US quashed a report by Richard

Barlow, who was attached to its embassy in Islamabad. "They said 'no' because George Bush had to certify before Congress that we did not have nuclear capability," Gen Beg said. "It was only when Russia had withdrawn from Afghanistan that they accepted Barlow's report as correct. The whole perspective changed and American pressure started building up, and one fine morning in 1990 they announced that Pakistan had crossed the red line."

The general said US embassy officials were regularly briefed on the progress of Pakistan's nuclear programme. Although US officials said they did not believe that a test by either Pakistan or India is likely, yesterday's reports are bound to increase tension. Much of the recent tension can be attributed to leaks in the US press, viewed in India and in Pakistan as part of US efforts to secure the passage of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty later this year.

Family feud may put 'beat' author Kerouac on the road again

Jan Katz in Lowell, Massachusetts

MORE than a quarter of a century after he died angry, unappreciated and almost certainly drunk, Jack Kerouac may be about to hit the road one last time.

In the latest round of a bitter feud, his daughter, Jan Kerouac, has announced she wants to move his remains to his family burial plot in Nashua, New Hampshire.

The original "beat" author is buried alongside his third wife, Stella, in Lowell, the grimy town 20 miles south of Nashua where Kerouac was born and lived most of his

life. His simple headstone has become something of a shrine to fans of the writer whose popularity has soared in recent years.

But Ms Kerouac, aged 44, claims that the author of *On the Road* belongs with his mother, father and brother in Nashua's St Louis de Gonzague Cemetery.

Such a move would be relatively straightforward, if it were not that Ms Kerouac is locked in a dispute over control of her father's estate with the family of his third wife, Stella Samps.

John Samps, Kerouac's brother-in-law and executor of his will, has flatly refused Ms Kerouac's request. "I'm

willing to bet you money that Mr Kerouac is not going anywhere," his lawyer, Leticia Marquise, told the Guardian.

According to Ms Marquise, Ms Kerouac's bid to move her father's remains is "just another tactic" in her battle for control of his estate, which includes a vast archive of his writings. "She craves in death what she could not get from him in life which is an acknowledgement that she was his daughter."

In Lowell and Nashua, Kerouac enthusiasts have been furiously debating which town was the writer's spiritual home. Though he wrote extensively about the Massachusetts town, three of his

novels end in the Nashua cemetery where his daughter would like to bury him.

At the end of Town and the City, the mother of the Kerouac-like character, Joey Martin, tells him as they bury his father: "New Hampshire, New Hampshire... He wanted to come back to finish his days here."

The town's Commissioner of Cemeteries, Thomas Belligarde, is bemused by the latest row. "For the last 25 years it's been fairly quiet and I've heard from everyone. A few months ago they wanted to move him out West. You need a score card to keep track of what's going on out here."

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OnLine, G2 page 10

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Row between police and intelligence service on Docklands bomb • Chilling warning of terrorists' long-term plans



Gerry Adams says he was told by one IRA leader: 'We sued for peace, the British wanted war. If that's what they want we will give them another 25 years of war'



Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble and colleagues after yesterday's talks on elections in the province

IRA wants peace but 'will fight'

THE IRA wants to end its campaign of violence and pursue its objective of ending British sovereignty in Ireland through political means but is prepared for 25 more years of war, Gerry Adams claimed yesterday. A further comment illustrates one of the peace process's most intractable contradictions. "We pursue armed struggle because of conditions in the six counties (Northern Ireland) and the British claim to sovereignty in Ireland. "We know the conflict has to be ended but this requires a real peace settlement. In that context we can live with the pursuit of republican objectives through unarmed political or social struggle."

Bombers 'made dummy run during ceasefire'

Duncan Campbell and Richard Norton-Taylor

THE IRA carried out a "dummy run" nearly a month before the South Quay bombing, it emerged yesterday. This would indicate that plans to end the ceasefire were well under way before the Government's negative response to the Mitchell report, which had been seen as a factor in the resumption of the bombing.

the police and intelligence services about their respective roles surfaced. While publicly both sides maintain that the relationship is working well, privately the police have indicated reservations about MI5's intelligence-gathering abilities in relation to the South Quay bombing. Commander John Grieve, head of the Anti-Terrorist Branch, said yesterday that it was now known that the lorry used for the attack on February 9 had first come to the mainland on January 15. It is believed that it arrived at

Stranraer by ferry from Larne in Northern Ireland, and was driven down to London and back the following day. The implication is that the lorry was not packed with explosives at this stage but was being used for a dummy run to see whether it would be stopped and searched. It is believed that the vehicle, made up of the stolen parts of three lorries, was then driven back to Ireland, packed with explosives and returned to the mainland. The Mitchell commission

delivered its report on January 24 and recommended that the Government drop its demand for the IRA to hand over arms before talks began. The Government side-stepped the issue by concentrating on the need for new elections in Northern Ireland. Mr Grieve yesterday appealed for information about a four-wheeled trailer which police found in Rover Road, Barking, east London. It was carried by the bomb lorry on the day of the attack and police believe it may have been used so that the other-

wise empty lorry would not arouse suspicion. The trailer was described as home made, painted red and may have had the registration 5157BI or C282GWG. Security sources, meanwhile, are rejecting police claims that MI5 suggested the coded warnings about the South Quay bomb were a hoax. The sources say it is not MI5's job to assess bomb warnings. They suggest that police criticism reflects resentment over MI5's success four years ago in wrenching from the Metropolitan

police the lead responsibility for countering IRA terrorism on the mainland. MI5 did warn Scotland Yard at the end of last year about what sources called "deteriorating morale" among hard-liners in the IRA leadership. But MI5 said it was impossible to predict when the ceasefire would break down. However, sources in the Royal Ulster Constabulary say that MI5 underestimated growing opposition to the ceasefire within the IRA leadership which had been evident since last November.

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Lottery drops guarantee of £10 for three numbers

Andrew Cuff Media Correspondent

PLAYERS who match three winning numbers in the National Lottery will no longer be guaranteed a £10 prize, it was announced last night. Peter Davis, the director general of the National Lottery, insisted the rule change was minor and a clarification of the contractual rights of players. Camelot, the lottery operator, said the likelihood of the £10 prize - usually won by more than 1 million people a week - not being paid out was as likely as players landing on the moon.

It would only happen when the number of players matching three of the winning balls and claiming £10 exceeded the total amount in that week's prize fund, which is usually more than £30 million. Mr Davis described that as an "unlikely circumstance". It has not happened in the lottery's first 15 months. But the lottery has already thrown up the statistical freak of two double rollovers in successive weeks and if the £10 prize was suspended, the entire prize fund for that week would be equally divided between all winning tickets. Those matching six numbers would receive the same prize as those with three numbers. The change comes into effect from March 17.

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Milan design duo mix sex and style

Susannah Frankel sees a fashion high

THIS season marks the 10th anniversary of Italy's most famous design duo Dolce & Gabbana. Partners in real as well as fashion life, Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana have made clothes for stars as diverse as Madonna and Tom Cruise.

Not bad considering Dolce started out cobbling clothes together from scraps of cloth on his tailor father's workshop floor and the company originally operated from a small Milan apartment from where they sold their designs to friends.

Inspired by Italian starlets of the 1950s, Dolce & Gabbana are famous for their curvy tailoring and hour-glass black dresses. In celebration of voluptuous women, they have a shrine to the corset in their Milan showroom.

When they first hit the big time, their favourite model was actress Isabella Rossellini.

As well as the main line collection, there is now the younger D & G and fragrances for men and women. Yesterday's show, a high point at Milan fashion week, was delayed for 45 minutes by Woody Allen and his adopted daughter, Soon Yi, who were escorted in by an army of security guards. Strangely, the audience was more interested in the collection, a triumphant mix of Hollywood glamour and blatantly trashy sexuality. Models with Grace Kelly hair-dos and bright red lipstick strode down the catwalk in 1950s-style swing coats, studded with roses worn over skin-tight leopard print trousers or the pair's signature corsetry. The look was completed by high heels, peep-toed platform shoes and handbags. The collection was at once funny, feminine and sexy. "We love women who are not afraid to expose their bodies," Stefano Gabbana said.



British supermodel Naomi Campbell on the catwalk in an outfit from the collection of designers Dolce and Gabbana at the Milan fashion show. PHOTOGRAPH: PAOLO COCCO

Judge sends man to Rampton and calls for community care inquiry

Schizophrenic freed to kill mother and brother

Martin Walkwright

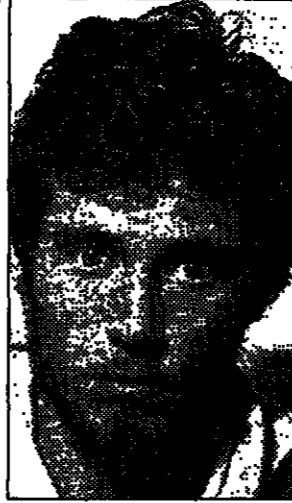
A PARANOID schizophrenic who discharged himself from hospital and then stabbed his mother and younger half-brother to death was yesterday sent to Rampton secure hospital for an indefinite period.

Anthony Smith, aged 24, denied murder but pleaded guilty to manslaughter by reason of diminished responsibility at Nottingham crown court, not far from the Derbyshire village of Sandiacre where the tragedy took place last August.

Mr Justice Latham asked for a painstaking investigation into the case, in spite of an internal review by Southern Derbyshire mental health NHS trust which found no evidence of major breakdowns in care.

An independent panel headed by John Wood, former professor of law at Sheffield university, is about to start work and will focus on medical treatment and the level of support offered to Smith's worried family before the killings.

The hearing was told that Smith had volunteered to be admitted to hospital after being diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic. After a month he discharged himself, with



Anthony Smith, aged 24, and his mother, Gwendoline



ing treatment in hospital. He told police that he felt "possessed by demons and voices" telling him to kill his mother. He felt she was conspiring against him to make him leave the house. He just went berserk, stabbing his mother and his 11-year-old half-brother, David, who unfortunately came upon the scene when the defendant was attacking his mother," said Mr Warren.

The court heard Smith then went to the local medical centre, telling the receptionist: "I have killed my mother and my brother."

Peter Joyce, QC, defending, said: "It is quite clear from reports that Anthony was a very sick young man when he was discharged."

Mr Smith said after the hearing that he had known that his son was a "ticking timebomb". He and his daughter, Hayley, aged 20, are considering legal action against Derby City general hospital and medical staff.

Andy Clayton, medical director for the trust, said that its review had found no major breakdowns in care, but it had strengthened its risk assessment system and would be "very ready to learn" from the results of the independent inquiry.

the approval of a consultant, and at home had refused to take medication shortly before using a Bowie knife and an iron bar to kill and mutilate his victims.

His mother, Gwendoline, aged 48, and his father, Peter, an accountant aged 47, had expressed concern at looking after him when his condition appeared to be worsening.

The judge said the case presented "in startling nature the nightmare those who care for people with schizophrenia

must fear". He said: "This is a case where the circumstances of this young man's release into the community, and perhaps more importantly, the circumstances of the care he was given in the community, will have to be looked at with great care."

John Warren QC, prosecuting, said that Smith had bickered with his mother on the morning of August 8, and had become increasingly paranoid after she told him that he ought to be undergo-

Asylum rules 'to deter refugees'

Owen Bowcott

NEWLY-imposed social security rules aimed at denying most asylum seekers welfare benefits are an illegal attempt to deter refugees from seeking sanctuary in Britain, the High Court was told yesterday.

The challenge by the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants comes amid reports that up to 300 refugees have arrived in this country and been refused benefits since the rules were changed a month ago.

Those who did not claim asylum at point of arrival — as required by the regulations — have been handed blankets by voluntary groups and forced to sleep in churches or emergency shelters, refugee organisations said.

Blake, QC, for the joint council and a Zairean refugee known only as Ms B, accused the Social Security Secretary, Peter Lilley, of misdirecting himself and acting outside his powers when he introduced the new regulations last month.

The ban will affect around 30,000 immigrants a year who claim asylum after they have been in Britain for some time. They will be denied income support, housing benefit and other welfare provisions. The change was expected to save the Government £200 million a year.

The case of Ms B illustrated the predicament now facing new arrivals, Mr Blake said. A 25-year-old woman who fled Zaire on February 7 after escaping from security forces who had murdered her husband, she came to Britain on a false Greek passport.

Arriving via the Channel Tunnel at Waterloo station from Brussels, she went straight to the Home Office's immigration unit at Croydon where she claimed political asylum. But she was told she was already in the country and hence it was too late.

"Her point of entry was supposedly as soon as she disembarked at Waterloo," Mr Blake said. Was she supposed to have surrendered herself to a ticket inspector, he asked.

The denial of benefits was inconsistent with the purpose of social security legislation and motivated by the desire to deter asylum seekers, in breach of Britain's obligations under the UN Convention on Refugees, he said.

The minister had not suggested how genuine applicants could keep themselves fed, housed, clothed and in good health during the

months of waiting for their appeals to be heard, said Mr Blake.

Refugee organisations have pointed out that when the original legislation was passed in 1982, Robin Squire, a junior minister, specifically stated that the Government had no intention that "asylum seekers will be on the streets."

The issue had become further confused by the Department of the Environment promising local authorities such as Westminster and Hammersmith and Fulham councils 80 per cent relief for the additional housing costs they will incur by providing accommodation for homeless refugees. As a consequence the two councils have withdrawn from the legal action against the Government.

The High Court hearing continues today.

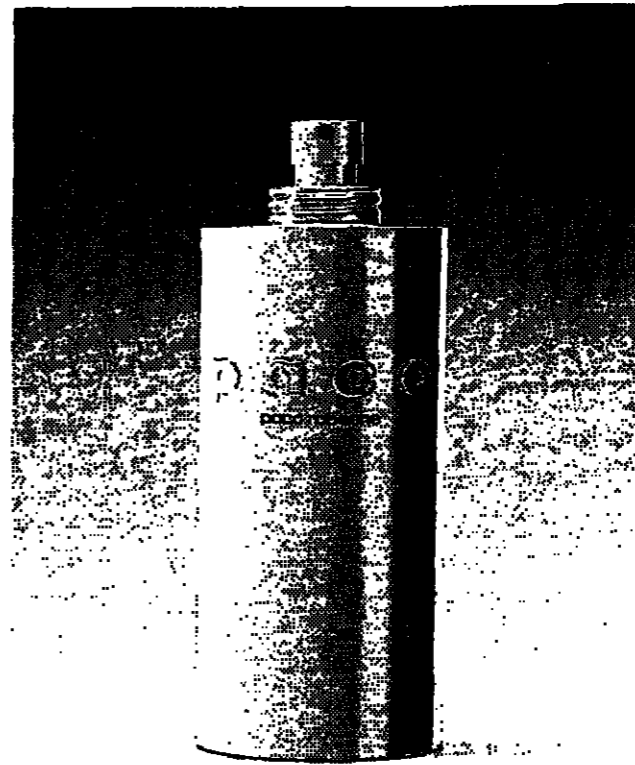


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6 WORLD NEWS

As China prepares to begin its threatening missile tests tomorrow, US state department says 'constructive engagement' has failed

Nervous Taiwan invokes Blitz spirit

Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong

FEARFUL of panic as jittery Taiwanese swapped currency for gold ahead of Chinese missile tests tomorrow, Taiwan's military has summoned memories of Britain's victory in the second world war and the failure of Nazi rockets to dent morale.

ade" by the People's Liberation Army and marked the start of preparations for a "total blockade" of Taiwan. It said Chinese rockets could fly over Taipei, the capital, and other cities on their way to "splash zones" near Keelung and Kaohsiung, Taiwan's two biggest ports.

never been so bad. This is already a blockade. How much further China goes now depends on the United States. Washington's China policy, however, is in disarray and seems set to unravel further.

DENG XIAOPING, chief architect of China's market reforms, is in good health and spirits as successors tackle his blueprint for a socialist market economy and a unified motherland, his daughter said.

for this session, he is extremely concerned with this congress," daughter Xiao Rong said during Tuesday's opening ceremony of the National People's Congress, China's parliament.

several Chinese sources that her 91-year-old father's health had worsened. Ms Xiao acknowledged some problems. "His legs aren't so good, but he is very active in physical exercise and makes up his own routines," she said.

by human rights groups, who have been bitterly critical of a 1994 decision by President Clinton to uncouple human rights concerns from China's status as a most favoured nation (MFN) trading partner.

China dismisses the West's professed concern for human rights as a part of a plot to slow its emergence as a great power. In a speech to China's legislature on Tuesday, the prime minister, Li Peng, acknowledged the parlous state of Sino-US relations but said: "This was completely created by unwise US policies towards China."

Allies cautious as US targets Tehran

Martin Walker in Washington, Kathy Evans in Tehran and Richard Norton Taylor

WASHINGTON is planning an intense diplomatic campaign to increase the isolation of Iran, citing its support of the Hamas terrorists responsible for the bombings in Israel, despite strong reservations by Germany and other allies.

the bombings. The official Iranian news agency called them "divine retribution" and Libya's recalled that Muammar Gaddafi had called Palestine "a tomb for Jews".

Relations with America have become a hot issue in the current Iranian election campaign, in which a number of candidates are arguing for improvements, provided that the US ends its outright hostility.



A Palestinian girl, confined by curfew to her home in Al Fawah refugee camp near Hebron, peers out at a world under Israeli army siege

Cash-strapped Iran dips its toe in democracy

Kathy Evans in Tehran

IRAN'S 30 million voters go to the polls tomorrow in what is seen as the country's first tentative step towards pluralistic politics. It is a hesitant start. So strict are the election rules that the campaign has been almost invisible to many voters.

who made the revolution 17 years ago and argue that social justice and the protection of Islam must come first. "Enough prosperity screamed a graffiti on the Bouda highway in Tehran, bearing the signature of Ansari Hezbollah, Iran's most radical of all radical factions.

Over 200 Palestinians held

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

TWO million Palestinians are under siege, as Israeli forces under their huge mandate hunt for activists of the Islamist movement, Hamas.

have been sealed since Hamas suicide bombers killed nearly 60 people. Since the last bombing, in Tel Aviv on Monday, security forces have arrested a suicide bomber from the Gaza Strip to the heart of Tel Aviv in his lorry, allegedly for about £750.

labour. The sentence was authorised by President Yasser Arafat. In Israel, an Arab appeared in court accused of smuggling a suicide bomber from the Gaza Strip to the heart of Tel Aviv in his lorry, allegedly for about £750.

Kuwait keeps faith with missing sons

Ian Black reports from the emirate on its campaign for the return of Saddam's PoWs

LIGHTS are burning late in a Kuwait office building and keep the flame flickering. For five years after the liberation, the emirate's missing — and a handful of other nationalities — represent both a personal loss and unfinished political business as Saddam Hussein continues to defy United Nations resolutions.

the Holocaust museum in Jerusalem, it has become an obligatory stop for foreign visitors. Money at least is no problem for this oil-rich country. The families of the missing are well looked after by the last real welfare state in the world, health and education are free, and their full salaries are paid as if they were still at work.

complete declarations can you have? Why should we believe their fifth account when the previous four have all been partial or false? A Kuwaiti convert to Christianity, Hussein Qanber Ali, aged 45, appeared in court yesterday to answer the first charge of apostasy brought in the emirate. He stands to lose marriage, inheritance and other rights, and could be murdered with impunity by a Muslim if found guilty. The court will decide on April 17 on his plea that the case should be heard by the constitutional court.

News in brief

Nato steps up role in Bosnia

Nato ambassadors yesterday agreed to offer closer co-operation to the civilian UN peace mission in Bosnia by allowing the IFOR military force to assist in guarding suspected mass graves, arresting listed war criminals and resettling refugees.

Minister indicted

The former chief minister of the Delhi regional government, Madanlal Khurana, was charged yesterday in a 65 million rupee (\$12.5 million) corruption scandal, becoming the 25th politician indicted in a case that has forced seven cabinet ministers to resign.

Court in the act

A Pittsburgh lawyer prosecuting a man in two robbery cases began dating the man's girlfriend and sent him to jail "to remove romantic competition", a judge ruled. Thomas Balenger, who is serving 5-10 years, will now get a new trial.

Election deaths

At least seven people were killed and more than 150 injured in clashes during voting in two northern districts of Bangladesh yesterday, writes Arshad Mahmud in Dhaka. Witnesses said three people were shot dead in Rajshahi, in the northern Sirajganj district, when police fired on demonstrators opposed to new polling in some constituencies where voting in last month's general election was suspended.

Cuban terrorism

The Cuban foreign minister, Roberto Robaina, told a special meeting of the United Nations General Assembly yesterday that the Cuban exile organisation whose two light aircraft were shot down

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"No one should be blonde. No one should have fun. Fun is a gendered concept." Would I like to go up to Birmingham and say this? Not really, thanks. Suzanne Moore. G2 page 7

Advertisement for a product, possibly a beverage, with a large image of a bottle and text including 'ADAM. Best... 0500'.

Domestic woe blunts German blood claims

Ian Traynor in Berlin

ROMAN KVRIN has just exchanged the barren, criminalised wasteland of Russia's Ural mountains for six square yards of an immigrants' hostel in Berlin, hoping for a new life in the homeland he had never known in a lifetime of persecution and hardship as an ethnic German in Russia.

The 2,500-mile trek has ended not without disappointment. "The hostel's terrible. It's all gypsies and Bosnian refugees and Poles, drinking every night, making a racket. There are only three real Germans there."

But the lure of the West remains irresistible. "Of course it's still much better here than there. It's so dangerous, it's impossible to live there, and here at least there are some prospects. I'm in a much better frame of mind."

Mr Kvirin, aged 58, does not know it — his German is rudimentary and his grasp of national politics here undeveloped — but he and the other 230,000 ethnic Germans who moved from the former Soviet Union to Germany last year have just become a problem.

Increasingly desperate to revive his political fortunes, Oskar Lafontaine, the Social Democrat opposition leader, has just lashed out at the tide of ethnic German immigration from former communist Europe, seeking a scapegoat for the country's soaring unemployment rates in the hapless hordes of settlers arriving by the week from the east.

"There's no doubt that German Social Democrats offer aid and acceptance. But the burning houses show that the readiness to take them in is not unlimited," he told an election rally last week.

Liberals, moderates, and German nationalists alike have been appalled by what

they see as his dangerous demagoguery, and it has sparked an impassioned debate.

But, with his eye on three key state polls in a fortnight's time, he shows no sign of letting up on the rabble-rousing, more often seen as the preserve of the far right.

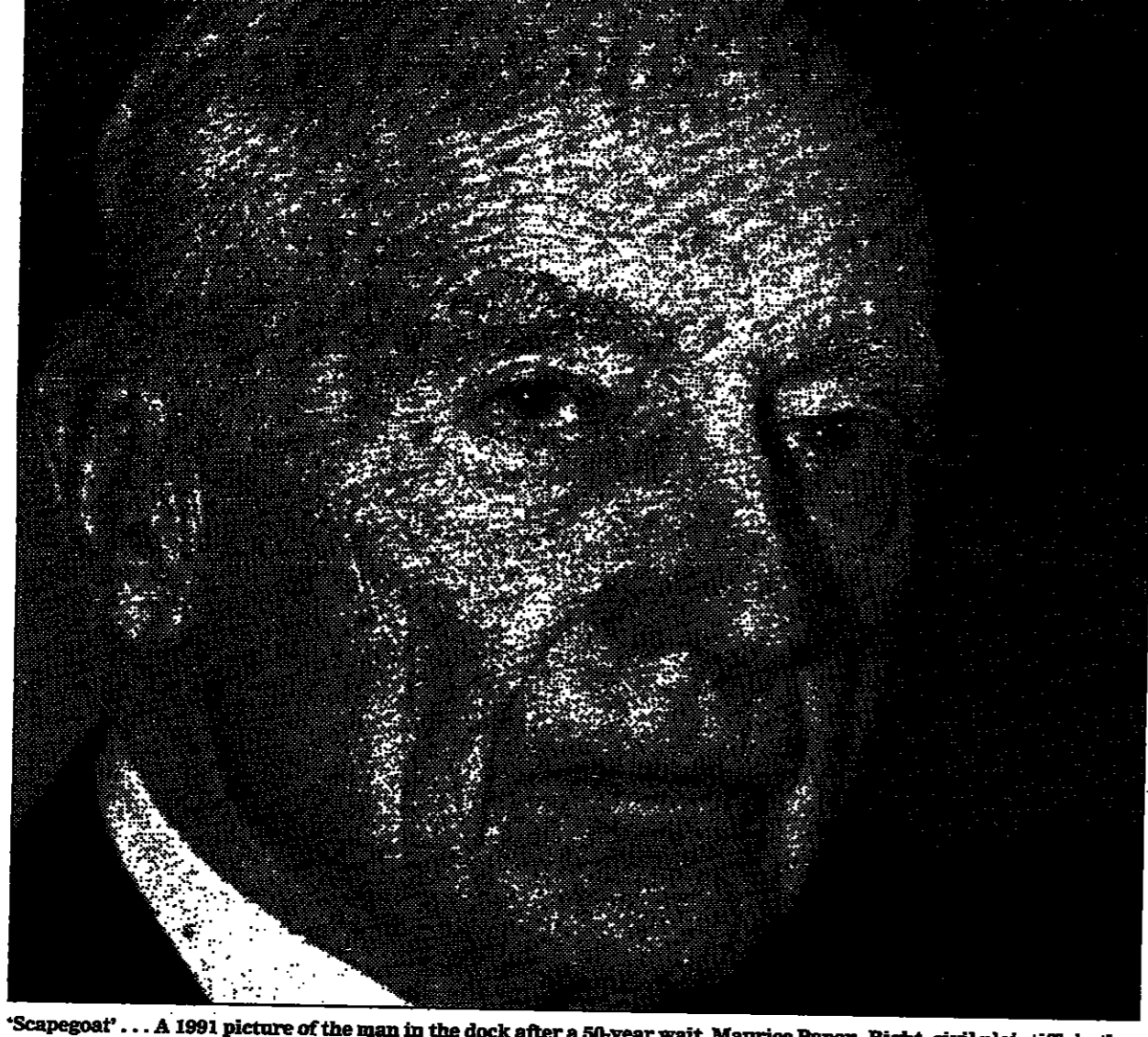
"This is the kind of talk I would have expected from the neo-Nazis, but coming from the Social Democrats it is really shocking, dangerously playing with the politics of envy," says Johann Schoepf, a Berlin social worker and legal expert who has been working with immigrants for the past 10 years.

The ethnic German diaspora in eastern Europe, which goes back to the middle ages and stretches from the Balkans to Siberia, has been uprooted since the collapse of communism six years ago. Up to two million of them have poured into Germany since then.

Under the blood and soil sentiment that governs the regulation of German nationality and citizenship, they and their offspring are constitutionally guaranteed a German passport.

Mr Lafontaine is the first senior political leader to question this axiom, confident that his claimed defence of jobs, pensions, housing and the welfare state against the incomers chimes well with the mood among a public increasingly fretful about its living standards.

Seven out of 10 Germans agree with his drive and want the influx severely curbed or ended, according to an opinion poll today from the weekly newspaper Die Woche: a view likely to be reinforced by yesterday's official unemployment figure of more than 11 per cent or almost 4.3 million, a post-war record.



'Scapegoat' ... A 1991 picture of the man in the dock after a 50-year wait, Maurice Papon. Right, civil plaintiffs in the case on the steps of the courthouse yesterday

Final judgment hangs over Vichy

An ex-minister accused of crimes against humanity claims he is a victim of a Jewish plot, writes Paul Webster in Bordeaux

AMONG the plaintiffs, lawyers and journalists waiting for judges to start a three-day hearing that could send a Gaullist former cabinet minister, Maurice Papon, on trial for wartime crimes against humanity, his most resolute opponent could at last feel that a 50-year mission was nearing an end.

Michel Sittinsky was 17 in 1942 when he escaped across Bordeaux's rooftops as French police moved to arrest Jews, including most of his own family, who died in German death camps.

Nearly 40 years later, after a painstaking investigation, the Communist Resistance worker published secret documents on wartime collaboration that forced Mr Papon to resign as budget minister to face allegations of responsibility for the deportation of 1,690 Jews, including 228 children.

Using his journalist's training, Mr Sittinsky profited from a further 15 years of judicial delays to dig up piles of new evidence to add to 98 volumes being outlined to judges by 18 prosecution lawyers representing 33 families.

But while the Papon affair is generally seen as the last chance for a definitive public judgment on Philippe Pétain's collaborationist regime, Mr

The former minister refused to attend yesterday's *in camera* hearings but outlined his defence in a long interview in the Liberation newspaper claiming the status of a scapegoat and a victim of international plot by Jewish organisations.

"I don't see any problems with putting Vichy on trial. I just don't want it to be on my head," he added, describing himself as an unimportant provincial official powerless to stop Nazi orders.

But documents, some of them in Mr Papon's handwriting, giving French police orders to round up named Jewish families and send them to Drancy concentration camp near Paris are being used by the prosecution to show that he deserved notes of congratulation from the Nazis for his efficiency.

The public prosecutor, Jean Desfos du Rau, told judges that Mr Papon, a career civil servant, was totally involved in anti-Jewish operations and knew perfectly well that deportees would be sent to German concentration camps.

In any normal case, a public prosecutor's ruling after a 15-year investigation would automatically result in an assize court trial but the history of the Papon affair and his advanced age has left considerable doubt over whether he will ever be tried.

Throughout his 14 years in office, the late President François Mitterrand, a Vichy official in 1942, put pressure on a compliant judiciary to delay trials of collaboration-

ists. Two former Vichy police chiefs accused of crimes against humanity, Jean Lequay, and René Bousquet, died before being brought to trial. Bousquet, who financed Mr Mitterrand's election campaigns, was shot dead in 1993 by a lone avenger.

Although the Lyon SS chief, Klaus Barbie, was jailed for life for crimes against humanity, the only Frenchman to receive a similar sentence was Paul Touvier, leader of the Lyon French pro-Nazi militia.

Touvier was protected by the Catholic church and senior rightwing politicians for 50 years, and Mr Papon's trial could also uncover high-level complicity to protect him.

The election of Jacques Chirac as president has been the most significant reason for speeding up the judicial process. Last year, the Gaullist leader swept aside Mr Mitterrand's reluctance by condemning Vichy as an evil and criminal regime and demanding an end to judicial delays.

But the Nazi-hunting lawyer, Serge Klarsfeld, who has pursued Mr Papon since the case was opened, pointed out that the affair was not solely concerned with repairing historical damage and covering up a crime which no post-war government dared to admit.

"This is an opportunity to examine the limits of civil service responsibility in administrative crimes and would provide lessons and guidance for today and the future," he said.

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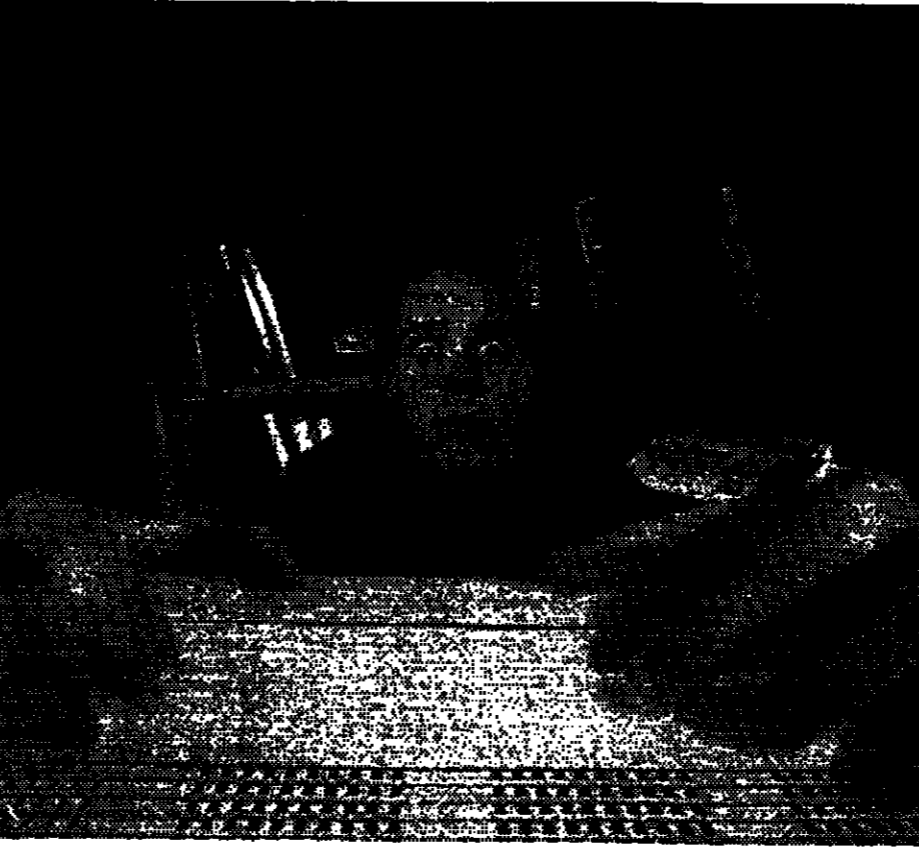
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Wanted: the vision thing

Dole only stands a chance if Clinton blunders

THE SENATOR from Kansas has won a famous victory. Bob Dole rides again after surviving no less than three separate ambushes from fellow Republican contenders.

federal welfare payments as "a very important programme" for the young, disabled and jobless. Mr Dole has in his long career managed to move from being regarded as an arch-rightwinger to portraying himself as a "conservative tinged with compassion."

If the Dole wagon now rolls ahead as expected, it may well acquire a new band. The media has nominated in succession Mr Forbes, Lamar Alexander and Pat Buchanan as favourites to be preferred.

Rifkind at the heart of Europe

Now stand back for the revenge of the Tory Eurosceptics

EUROPE is supposedly the defining issue of modern British politics. But it is not the issue on which many British party leaders actually define their views very readily.

It was a cautious but logical exposition of a case on CFSP around which other parties can probably unite more easily than his own. Like Mr Rifkind's recent speech in Munich, this one was infused with a much more positive attitude to the EU than a party audience or the Europhobe Tory press would tolerate.

That, however, is about to change, and not before time. Malcolm Rifkind began to articulate the British government's approach to the IGC in a speech in Paris on Tuesday.

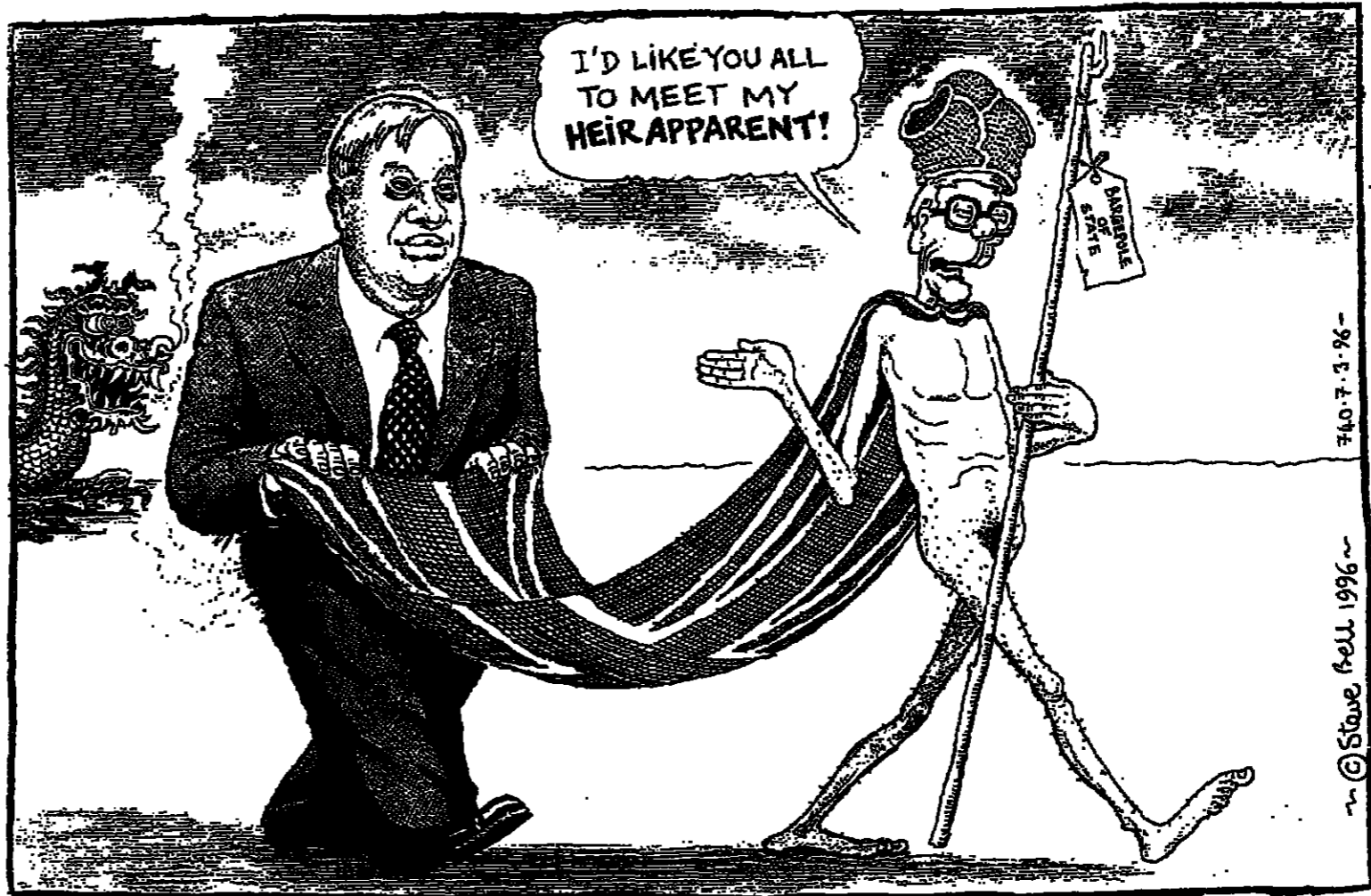
Only a small part of the speech dealt with British proposals for the institutional reform which will underpin CFSP. But the mere fact that a Conservative foreign secretary is willing to support the setting up of a European Council foreign policy secretariat and the creation of a high profile post of European Union foreign policy ambassador has been enough to light the party's blue touch paper.

No avoiding hard health choices

But activists as well as ministers must change their tactics

A REPORT on a 10-year-old Manchester boy suffering from a brain clot finds he was unable to get a brain scan because the £1 million scanner - bought with public donations - only operated between 9am and 5pm.

not left to the market if patients are to be properly protected. Patient charter standards fall far short of what is needed. The Royal College of Physicians set out some factors - all missing from the minister's instructions to health authorities - which need to be taken into consideration: beds per million people, distance between units, transfer policy.



Letters to the Editor

You're on your Todd, Derek

DEREK TODD'S claim (User friendly folly, March 6) that the user is the cause of the drug problem is as simplistic as it is misguided.

is harmless, or as near as dammit; heroin can be taken pure for decades with no ill-effects; ecstasy deaths usually result from ignorance - Leah Betts diluting herself to death, for example.

Only two drugs are proven addictive killers: nicotine and alcohol. Todd's favouring of more lurid "educational" materials starkly highlights the gulf separating him from those he wants to help.

The illegality of drugs generates crime, sustains a legal system, wastes police and judicial resources, and sets one generation against another.

What we now need is not just better co-ordination between all the interested parties. We need both a national and local drug interventions and investment budget which can channel the overall resources available into the most cost-effective actions.

DEREK TODD appears to have had a memory lapse when he said that he had written his "user friendly folly".

TODD declares that he finds it difficult to follow the logic of the arguments for legalisation. Let me try to untangle the demand for drugs means a significant and long-term shift in the balance of our spending priorities.

NOTED that in his call for demand reduction policies which users can justify their actions. They may be performing an illegal act that upsets the sensibilities of some people, but it is a crime where the only victim is the perpetrator.

Standing Conference on Drug Abuse, Retinal House, 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EE.

Could his imaginary geography class also be told that, say, England produces milk but also amphetamines? or do drugs only come from abroad?

Roger Howard, Standing Conference on Drug Abuse, Retinal House, 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EE.

Gary Groom, 54 Falconers Field, Harpenden, Herts AL5 3ET.

An explanation

I READ with interest Beatrice Campbell's (Faith-healers at work in Irish hospitals, March 5). My decision to decline the offer of a second term as chairman of the Royal Group of Hospitals Trust reflected my acute dissatisfaction with various aspects of the central direction of the health service in Northern Ireland.

HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW YOUNG THE DEMOGRAPHERS ARE LOOKING NOWADAYS?

This is an age-old problem

I FIND IT a shame that your leader (March 6) has uncritically picked up on the theme of a report from the European Commission which scapegoats the elderly for anticipated changes in welfare provision in the next century.

needs of those who are not included within it, because they have interrupted work records or are unemployed. Many of the latter group are women.

I did not suspect or believe that the Government's dealings with the Royal Group were prompted by any sectarian intent. The Board of the Trust had succeeded nine months ago in securing an absolutely firm commitment from the Government to make £8m available to provide on the site a long overdue replacement for much of the existing Royal Victoria Hospital.

In Denmark and in France, by contrast, there is much more concern about social exclusion and about maintaining solidarity. Britain stands out as the only country in which no substantial grouping is willing to defend the maintenance of high welfare standards at the cost of maintaining levels of tax and spending.

The Royal Group, in its caring, teaching and research roles, is a Northern Ireland flagship, a truly international centre of excellence. Also critically important, it occupies a pivotal position in the economic life of an area which is seriously deficient in job opportunities. In social and economic terms, as well as for its crucial contribution to the Health Service in Northern Ireland as a major regional resource, the Royal Group is a valuable asset which should be maintained and, where possible, enhanced.

THE photograph accompanying Richard Worsley's eloquent piece about ageism in the workplace (Left out of things, March 2) depicted three older men registering for work in Bradford.

The Board of the Trust had succeeded nine months ago in securing an absolutely firm commitment from the Government to make £8m available to provide on the site a long overdue replacement for much of the existing Royal Victoria Hospital. Building work is scheduled to start on April 1, 1997.

This "medical" approach was somewhat overshadowed by the person pouring the tea for the men, who surprised me, was an overvalued, older woman. Oh well, maybe age takes precedent over gender in examining employees' prejudices.

Once again it seems the women are left making the tea. Karen Tansley, Rectory Cottage, St Andrew's Lane, Congham, King's Lynn PE32 1DU.

Maybe these concerns about ageing have more to do with an exhausted social system and an inability to raise enthusiasm amongst their own members than any natural phenomenon? Bill Durodie, European Projects Officer, Kingsway College, Regents Park Centre, Longford Street, London NW1 3BB.

Matters arising: Major's heir apparent and fishy practices

ALWAYS urge caution upon those of my friends who assure me that the Tories cannot possibly win the next election, but now I know that they must be right.

take up a complaint from a Labour MP. The Member concerned had sent me a newspaper article but could not vouch for its accuracy. I therefore asked him if he wished to lodge a complaint (which would bring the matter within my terms of reference); and, if so, whether he could specify the charges and supply supporting evidence.

By arguing their right to make their choice users are in the company of philosophers such as JS Mill. It is a valid claim that weakens the ability of a democratic police force to claim it is policing by consent.

IN ALL the hullabaloo over the European Court's fishing ruling, very little has been said about what could be done right now to stop the quota hoppers. At the moment, boats flying a UK flag of convenience have a choice. Either they must land half their catch in Britain, or they must visit one of our ports at least four times every six months.

Mr Patten should attempt to make a political comeback at home when he returns from Hong Kong, he would presumably do well to test the temperature of any oil offered for his amending by Mr Lilley and the other right-wing members of the present cabinet whom John Major allegedly once referred to as his bastards!

Best of all, it is a change that could be made at once, at no cost, and with no fear of falling foul of Euro-law - it merely concerns licence conditions, not legislation. Ministers should explain why they won't examine this option. Robin Teverson MEP, European Parliament Fisheries Committee (Cornwall & West Plymouth), Newton Farm, Metherell, Callington, Cornwall PL17 8DQ.

MAY I correct an error in your report (Test Case over Tory MP's financial support, March 5)? I have not, as the article states, refused to

Sound of fury

THE Opera House has its lottery money, but can't get planning permission (Council rejects Royal Opera plan, March 2). Now the British Museum is travelling down the same bumpy road: £30m from the Millennium Fund, but a planning application to destroy the Round Reading Room only just submitted to Camden Council.

Size matters

I WAS in my kitchen when I read Luisa Dillon's assertion (Doctor at large, March 5) that the diameter of the erect penis is eight to 12cm. A quick survey with a ruler showed that this lay between a large coffee mug and a Morphy Richards jug kettle.

A Country Diary

CO DURHAM: February brought two magical events. The first - reputed to be a once-in-a-lifetime spectacle - was an evening sky decorated for a few surreal minutes by mother-of-pearl clouds. They were of a kind that might be drawn by a science fiction illustrator to portray the atmosphere of an alien planet, or might have been interpreted in antiquity as a portent of terrible events.

clouds. The second momentous event, witnessed only by my wife, was the arrival of a party of waxwings in our garden. They demolished the Lonicera tartarica berries dangling close to the window, with some birds even sitting on the window ledge to feed. Their antics were described to me over the telephone by my wife, who commented on every detail of their plumage and activities as she sat just a couple of feet from the window. By the time I got home, they had (of course) moved on. If, like me, you have waited years to see one of these exotic winter visitors, you can imagine the frustration of having to make do with a commentary on a whole flock in your own garden. The bitter weather that brought the waxwings and pearly heavens has now given way to the first warm days of spring and I am planning to plant a hedge of Lonicera tartarica. The birds, at least, might be back. PHIL GATES

12 FINANCE AND ECONOMICS



Hong Kong: Enter the Dragon

THE MARKET: If the territory suffers the shakes after 1997, the tremors will hit the global market — the last thing China needs, writes Patrick Donovan

Closely observed trades... dealers at their screens on the main floor of the Hong Kong stock exchange



Underside

Jonathan Confino

FORGET train-spotting. The great hobby for visitors to Hong Kong is name-spotting. Take the bathroom fittings showroom called Eurofit or the footwear maker, Lee Kee Boot and Shoes. Or would you trust the Honest Estate Agents or the High Gloss Property Company? For those who question whether money is the main religion in the colony, look no further than the business phone directory, where listings under the title "prosperous" total more than 100.

BILLIONAIRE Hong Kong businessman, Li Ka-shing, sometimes takes a rather unorthodox approach to investment. His recent interest in bidding for the Canary Wharf office development evaporated after he flew to London to visit the site. After his chauffeur got lost in the East End and failed to find Docklands after more than an hour, the entrepreneur returned to his headquarters: "If we couldn't find it, how would we expect anyone else to?"

HONG Kongers should ignore the upward movement of the Hang Seng index (the local equivalent of the FTSE). The Feng Shui index is much more worrying. This is based on the predictions of the Feng Shui men, or spiritual advisers. They predict a violent downturn in the summer with only a partial recovery at the tail-end of the Year of the Rat. The mixture of fire and water is apparently bad news.

THE next president of the UK Chartered Institute for Housing is a powerful man. He runs a housing authority which has 750,000 properties on its books, builds 40,000 new homes a year and houses half the population. To find such a man, though, the Institute had to cast its net a bit wider than the UK, where public housing are two very dirty words. The new top man is Fung Tung, head of housing.

THE ultimate in creating your own market: the Glorious Sun Group describes itself as "the largest manufacturer and exporter of casual slacks and jeans in Asia and one of the top producers of bottoms in the entire world". Sorry?

Dictatorship of self-interest

ZHANG HUNGYI stops drinking tea mid-sip. And for a moment it looks as if the man who controls one in every four dollars deposited in Hong Kong's financial markets is hoping to lay into the Bank of England. But Beijing's most powerful overseas banker did not rise through the Party ranks by speaking his mind. And he contents himself by expressing his hopes that Britain's banking regulator will speed up its deliberations over Bank of China's plans to set up in the City of London.

Exchange moves in to grab more Pacific Rim business

PLANS to allow London-based share traders to deal directly in the Hong Kong stock market will tomorrow be unveiled by Edgar Cheng, the colony's stock exchange chairman, writes Patrick Donovan.

China's programme of floating selected state-owned enterprises on the Hong Kong Exchange are well advanced, representing around 6 per cent of the capitalisation of the stock market. Simple self-interest, therefore, dictates that China will want to foster the development of a Western-looking financial market.

the bitter competition for equity trading business across the Pacific Rim. Mr Cheng yesterday admitted that he was preparing to unveil significant expansion proposals. But he said that he was unable to go into details until a public statement had been made later this week.

Asia's second largest after Tokyo, in terms of both capitalisation and turnover, and Hong Kong operates the world's sixth largest foreign exchange operation.

for Hong Kong's "order-driven" share market — which has until recently been exclusively based in the colony's exchange building. A growing volume of business has moved from the trading floor to brokers' offices, after dealers were offered the option of terminal-based share dealing. Now Mr Cheng wants to use technology to help develop international share dealings.

the financial centre of China", says Mr Li whose bank is very active in cross-border financing. The big snag for Beijing is that the more the mainland Chinese financial institutions attempt to play the open markets, the more they are exposed to criticisms about lack of transparency and vulnerability to bad debts.

pletely, their banks may find themselves increasingly sidelined in the financial markets. That seems a widely-held market view.

Chief executive Joseph Yam accepts that he has been tailoring monetary policy to political events. Although he is committed to full interest rate deregulation, the HKMA has stopped short of complete liberalisation, because of the risk that this could trigger a run on bank profits during the changeover period.

THE ultimate in creating your own market: the Glorious Sun Group describes itself as "the largest manufacturer and exporter of casual slacks and jeans in Asia and one of the top producers of bottoms in the entire world". Sorry?

Mr Tsang looks over his shoulder to Beijing



THE BUDGET: China wants wealth, not welfare spending, reports Richard Thomas

THE Chinese Communist Party directly influenced Hong Kong's final colonial budget, the colony's financial secretary Donald Tsang admitted yesterday.

any would post a HK\$2.5 billion (£200 million) deficit, but that would be HK\$1.6 billion in the black next year.

been looking over his shoulder at China. And Beijing doesn't want welfare, they want wealth.

Rising unemployment has added to calls for more state support, but Mr Tsang said a pick-up in the pace of economic expansion during 1996 would dent the jobless total.

should be back to its trend rate of 8 per cent by next year. He also expects the colony to benefit from strong growth in the Chinese economy, especially after June 1997. Li Peng, the Chinese premier, told the National People's Congress this week there would be an average rate of expansion of 8 per cent to the end of the century.

Final measures in Hong Kong . . .

- New measures to help build a local debt market and widen home ownership
- HK\$300m extra for retraining manufacturing workers
- Airport departure tax doubled to HK\$100
- Tourism development fund set up

. . . and Li Peng's annual report

- Growth to average 8 per cent a year until 2000
- Inflation 10 per cent this year, 5 per cent for next 5 years
- Preferential treatment for foreign investors phased out
- Help for poorer inland areas
- Key state firms to shift towards private corporate model

No. 1 seeks smaller share of bigger cake



THE BANK: Risky local outlook outweighed by regional potential, says Roger Cowe

TO THE outside world HongkongBank may be merely the local branch of HSBC, the institution which now owns Midland in Britain. But in Hong Kong, HKB is known simply as the Bank because it so dominates the financial scenery.

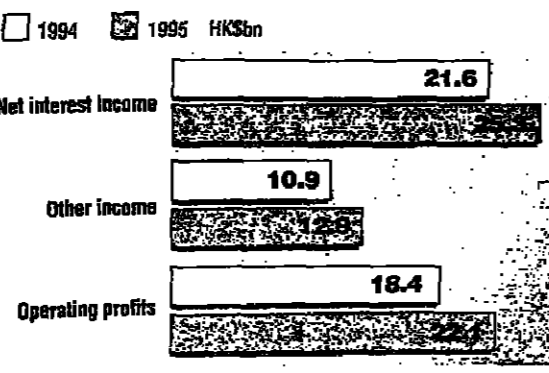
only go down. And indeed it already has, with the Bank of China (whose shiny new skyscraper next door symbolically overlooks HKB) snapping up retail customers.

ries about competition within Hong Kong. "It is difficult to divorce commercial issues from the political situation," he said, acknowledging that in the run-up to the handover confidence will be vulnerable.

faith in the advantages of Beijing of ensuring a smooth transition. "It is very important for the Chinese government's ultimate aim of peaceful reunification with Taiwan to demonstrate a smooth reunification with Hong Kong and Macau," he said.

mittedly against net interest income of HK\$25 billion. But there are huge opportunities beyond Hong Kong. Countries throughout the region, from India to Vietnam, are liberalising banking regimes and HKB already has operations in 21 Asian countries.

HongkongBank profits



Tomorrow

Lives of the rich and the impoverished: some people have nothing to lose when the Chinese take over — the two faces of Hong Kong exposed

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£13,000	11.75	180.26	205.34	283.70
£11,000	12.25	155.36	176.44	242.54
£9,000	12.25	127.11	144.36	198.44
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£5,000	12.75	71.91	81.43	111.38

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Motor Racing

Practice perfect for Prost

Alan Henry on the old master who has David Coulthard for a pupil this season

FOR a driver still tipped for the top, a move from Williams to McLaren had to be regarded as a move in the wrong direction. But David Coulthard does not see it that way.

First, his new team are no longer the uncompetitive, perhaps past-it outfit of last season. The McLaren that the young Scot saw in the rear-view mirror was Williams last year bore no comparison with the MP4/11 he will drive in Melbourne on Sunday.

Second, Coulthard sees his own development as a driver, even though it was forced upon him. Tonsillitis had affected his speed in the early part of last season.

Then, he has the character of the key people involved. "Top teams are top teams, whether it's Williams or McLaren. They are very comparable, despite differences in the character of the key people involved."

And third there is Alain Prost, not only a key person but a motor racing legend. The Frenchman has been recruited by the Didscot-based team to carry out test and development work, but obviously the four-times world champion can also



A word in your helmet... Prost makes a point to Coulthard in the McLaren pit during pre-season testing at Estoril

offer Coulthard and Hakkinen a wealth of experience garnered from a record 61 grand prix victories.

Coulthard, 25, with barely 50 months' experience, is delighted to have him aboard. "Alain has 12 years in F1 and enormous success. It makes sense for someone with that amount of experience to drive the car first."

"People didn't take it seriously when Jackie Stewart first suggested that grand prix drivers could be coached, but I think that attitude is changing now. There is still a lot to be learned and I can either do it the long way or take some

short cuts, even if it's just learning something about Alain's life as a driver."

It was Ron Dennis, the McLaren chief, who persuaded Prost to lend his talents to the apparently fading outfit. "In many other sports it is quite usual for a retired expert to take on a role in which they can pass on their expertise," he said.

"It was therefore completely logical to want Alain to be part of the team. "We started talking together at Hockenheim last year. Alain quite clearly understands F1 in many ways, and there was a healthy trum of offers open to us,

ranging from him racing the car through to some sort of consultancy role.

"What evolved out of those conversations was a position for him within the company which represents a new career for him. The benefit for us is his input both in terms of developing the car and from a driving point of view."

"He has already made a great contribution in optimising the new car, and his expert contribution to the business of winning races will be invaluable."

Prost himself says he is relishing the new challenge. "I'm a bit of a fan of the sport, and I'm a bit of a fan of the team. I'm a bit of a fan of the team."

"I'm a bit of a fan of the sport, and I'm a bit of a fan of the team. I'm a bit of a fan of the team."

"I'm a bit of a fan of the sport, and I'm a bit of a fan of the team. I'm a bit of a fan of the team."

may now consider making a comeback on the track.

"For what I have nothing to prove," he said. "This way I still feel one step up. When you are testing you are driving at only 95 per cent. The remaining five per cent is used up thinking about the car and how you are going to communicate what it is doing to the engineers."

"It gives me the opportunity to drive some of the best cars in the world. If I went racing I think I would be one step down on the front runners. It is like if you go out to have a nice dinner with a beautiful girl, and nothing more."

Wincanton runners and riders with form

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 2.10 Wincanton, 2.40 Capewrey, 2.10 Distant Echo).

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 4.10 Hops And Pops, 4.10 SSB In Bushes, 4.40 GENTLEMAN SID).

Carlisle

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 2.00 Carlisle, 2.00 Carlisle, 2.00 Carlisle).

Towcester

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details (e.g., 2.20 Towcester, 2.20 Towcester, 2.20 Towcester).

Results

Table of race results for various tracks including Bangor, Catterick, Lingfield, Wolverhampton, and Towcester. Columns include race number, winner, and time.

Wolverhampton

Table of race results for Wolverhampton track, including race numbers and winners.

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Wolverhampton

Table of race results for Wolverhampton track, including race numbers and winners.

Wolverhampton

Table of race results for Wolverhampton track, including race numbers and winners.

Advertisement for 'Groom backed' featuring 'RACINE' horse care products and contact information.

Advertisement for 'Groom backed' featuring 'RACINE' horse care products and contact information.

14 SPORTS NEWS

Soccer
European Cup, quarter-final, first leg
Borussia Dortmund 0, Ajax 2

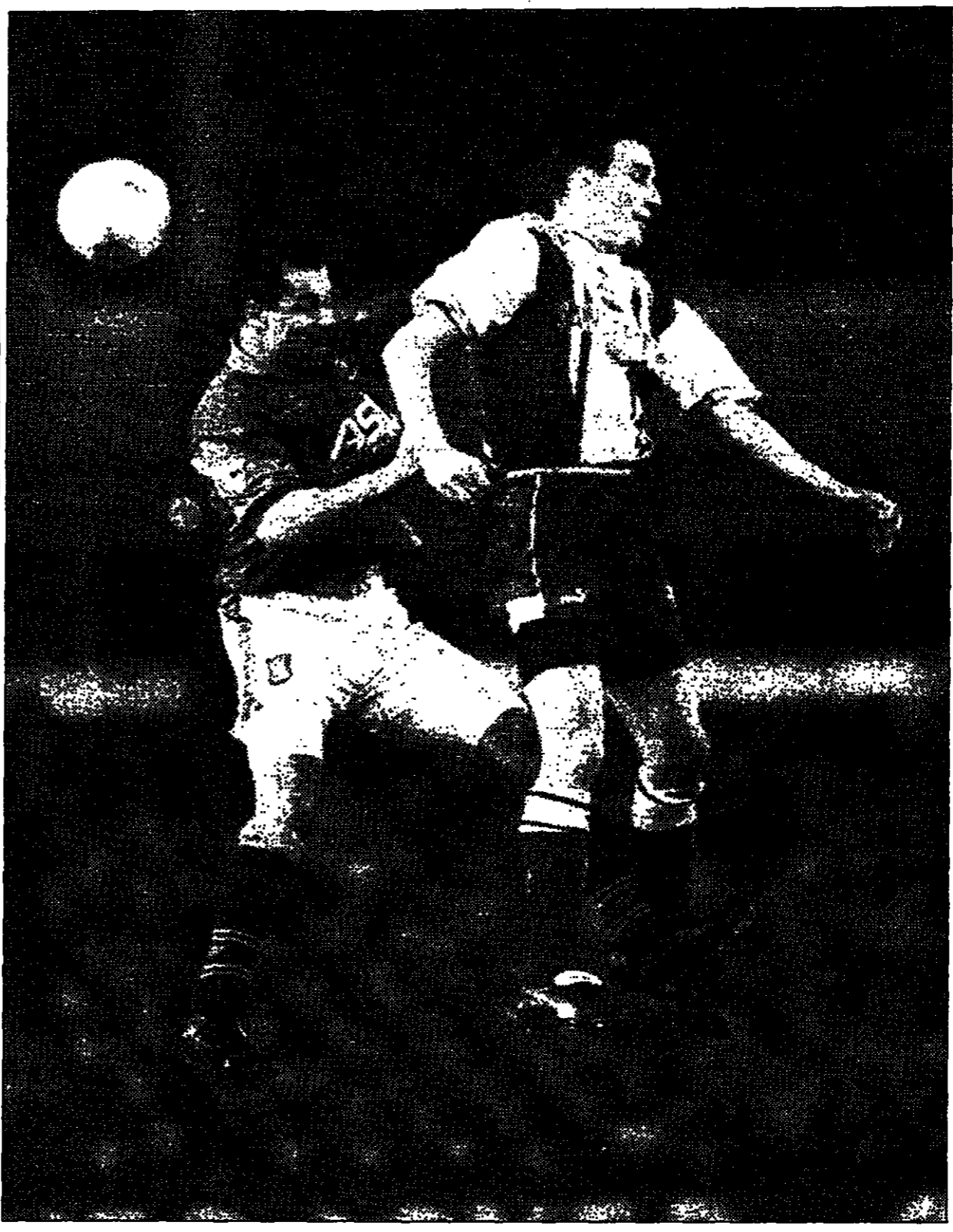
Champions in a class of their own

TERRY VENABLES last night saw Ajax give another demonstration of the finest footballing arts as they dominated the opening leg of their quarter-final against Borussia Dortmund...

ready two moves ahead. At times the switching of positions was bewildering to watch, let alone play against. Kanu, one of the two Nigerians in the Ajax side, tended to open up front but Kluitert was often back helping Blind and Slioyo break up Dortmund attacks...

Premiership
A Villa 3, Sheff Wed 2
Blinker sight for sore eyes

TWO FOREIGN imports, Regi Blinker and Savo Milošević, were the main bracers of goals piece at Villa Park last night, but it was Villa's Irish international midfielder Andy Townsend who settled matters and kept Villa's Euro-chance very much on course with a rasping 20-yard winner.



Leap in the dark... Wednesday's Darko Kovacevic rises above Paul McGrath at Villa Park

Premiership: Queens Park Rangers 1, Leeds United 2

Deadly Yeboah given free ride

Like many of his runs it has not taken them anywhere, but it has raised supporters' hopes that his determination to play his way out of trouble, reaffirmed yesterday, might yet be successful.

After 25 minutes it looked likely as Leeds moved easily into a 2-0 lead. By the half-hour, though, the home side had halved the deficit. Leeds had cut their journey fine, declaring their team by fax from the coach and arriving only half an hour before kick-off.

The right and Yeboah lost his marker Ready at the near post for a simple header. Andrew Gray, son of Frank, at once showed he had a left foot like his Uncle Eddie with a rasping shot.

goalkeeper had not parried from Gallen again as the Ranger responded first to Barker's quick free-kick. After the interval Rangers' midfielder stepped up the pressure. Lukic kept out Dichio's shot and Holloway's header, then in a double save the goalkeeper pushed out the header and Wetherall blocked Barker's follow-up.

Forest stirred for final shake-up

at all really, certainly not as good as Auxerre whom we played in the German league last night. The German striker had specifically gone over to the England winger on the whistle to present it as a way of saying sorry. He had read a story that Stone was upset after the game between Forest and Spurs a year ago when the chirpy Geordie had gone up to him to ask for his autograph...

Bumley bring Heath back to the Moor

ADRIAN HEATH will today be named as the new manager of Burnley. The club has left less than three months ago.

Sheffield United manager Howard Kendall. He has appeared for United this season but it is unclear whether he intends to continue his playing career at Turf Moor.

should accept Liverpool's offer of an improved 3½-year contract. "It will be the hardest decision of my career," he said yesterday. "It's 90-50, I honestly don't know what I will do."

been injured or out of favour for much of his four years at Anfield. Everton have failed again to persuade Oldham Athletic to part with their England Under-21 goalkeeper Paul Gerrard. Joe Royle lodged a bid of about £700,000 at the weekend only to be told — much as he was a month ago — that Gerrard was not for sale.

Bruce Rioch, who missed Arsenal's 3-1 over Manchester City on Tuesday night, is reported to have been in Milan watching Bixente Lizarazu, France's little attacking left-back, play for Bordeaux in the UEFA Cup quarter-final first leg.

Fry confident of landing Guy

BARRY FRY has a few deals to complete before he has to go cold turkey after the transfer deadline on March 28. For a start, the Birmingham City manager is ready to exchange his midfielder Jonathan Hunt for Sheffield Wednesday's Guy Whittingham and £750,000.

Results

Table listing sports results including Soccer, Football League, Scottish League, Rugby Union, and Tennis.

Ice Hockey

Table listing ice hockey results from various leagues and international competitions.

Billiards

Table listing billiards results including English and Welsh championships.

Bowls

Table listing bowls results from international and domestic tournaments.

Fixtures

Table listing upcoming fixtures for various sports leagues and events.

Rugby Union
Leonard escapes a ban

THE England prop Leonard was last night cleared to play in the Triple Crown decider against Ireland at Twickenham on Saturday week. A Five Nations hearing ruled that he was not guilty of punching Scotland's captain Rob Wainwright during a ruck at Murrayfield last weekend.

Tennis
Another scalp for Henman

TIM HENMAN confounded expectations on the second day in succession yesterday at the ATP World Indoor event in Rotterdam, where he beat the Spanish world No. 58 Carlos Moyá 7-6, 6-4 to claim a quarter-final place, writes David Irvine.

Rugby Union

NEWCASTLE WARRIORS were yesterday fined £20,000 (£12,500) by the International Rugby Federation, writes Vic Satchell. The club ignored an IFFR injunction endorsed by the British Association, not to play the Swedes Lars Tunell and Niklas Godwin before a dispute with the Swedish federation over their international clearance had been resolved.

SportsGuardian

Illingworth's 'supremo' days may be numbered

Paul Weaver

RAYMOND Illingworth's tenure as chairman of the England selectors may have only two more weeks to run.

The Test and County Cricket Board, at its spring meeting at Lord's yesterday, issued a deadline of March 20 for members to submit their nominations to the chief executive Alan Smith.

That is only three days after the World Cup final, although it may be that Illingworth and his players will already have been back in England some time by then. If there is more than one nomination a ballot will be conducted and the result announced before the end of March.

The beleaguered Illingworth can put another, even more critical, date in his diary this morning: March 26. That is when the executive committee of the board will meet to decide his future as England team manager.

It looks increasingly unlikely that he will continue in his twin-job "supremo" role, and his position as manager is looking vulnerable. John Embury is his most likely successor but David Lloyd, Phil Neale and even Ian Botham have been mentioned.

Meanwhile, the TCCB has reacted predictably to the sorry state of English cricket. It has not, like West Indies, sacked the coach and persuaded the captain to fall on his sword. Instead it has formed a working party.

It will be chaired by an international fencer, one who represented Great Britain in the 1968 Mexico Olympics. In cricket circles David Acfield

is better known as a former Essex off-spinner and chairman of the TCCB's cricket committee, although he never played for England.

The working party will, said a statement, "review all aspects relating to the administration, selection and management of England teams at home and abroad."

"David Acfield will be the chairman and will select its members. They will make their recommendations to the executive committee and then to the board before the end of this season."

The board also confirmed that this season three points will be awarded for a County Championship draw, and from next year the majority of Championship matches will start on a Wednesday.

England have so far escaped the rancour that is tearing apart the West Indies team, whose coach Andy Roberts yesterday provided a fresh fount of bad feeling.

Roberts was told by the West Indies board that, along with Richie Richardson giving up the captaincy, he and the team manager Wes Hall would be dismissed at the end of the World Cup.

Courtney Walsh has been named as captain for the series against New Zealand in the Caribbean this month. The former captain Clive Lloyd will be coach for the series, with the Barbadian representative on the board, Tony Marshall, taking over as manager.

"A lot of these decisions are taken by people who really do not understand cricket," Roberts said. "It's one thing to read about cricket, it's another thing to understand it."

"Most of the time they're far away in the Caribbean. It's difficult for them to understand what's going on."

ENGLAND TREMBLE AT RECORD CRICKET SCORE



Fan base... a supporter helps De Silva celebrate his century as Ranatunga, who made 75 not out, stands by

Beach feud generates modest heat



Ian Katz

THE Seventh Avenue pavement was still dotted with grubby mounds of ice and dirt from the previous week's snowfall, but inside Madison Square Garden Holly McPeak was logging on to the court in a red bikini.

Even if she was the scantiest clad of the women finalists, McPeak did not look out of place since the floor of the famous arena lay buried under 240 tons of white snow. "Hey, we're having fun at the beach," declared an announcer with no trace of irony.

Welcome to beach volleyball, the latest and most preposterous addition to the roster of Olympic sports.

For more than a decade, a few dozen bronzed surfer types have earned a respectable living digging and spiking their way around the game's modest professional tour.

But the sport's potential for growth always seemed limited as long as it was confined to venues in California, Florida and Brazil. The solution? If you can't bring Mohammed to the beach, bring the beach to Mohammed.

The United States' three professional leagues (two for men and one for women) now regularly bring a taste of Venice Beach to wintry cities where the only sand is the stuff spread in the streets to melt the ice.

Playing indoors has its advantages, explained Karolyin Kirby, one of the top women players, after an early-season tournament in sub-zero Fairfax, Virginia a few weeks ago. "You don't have to worry about sunburn."

TO COMPLETE the transformation of the arena where the New York Rangers do battle in the national ice hockey league, the organizers of last weekend's Evian Indoor Championships distributed brightly coloured beachballs to spectators and laid on stalls selling beachwear and nasty tropical drinks.

Bronx teenagers aren't exactly packing away their baseball mitts but there are some signs of the sport's growing popularity far from its Californian heartland. Several outdoor courts opened on a

disused wharf by the Hudson River last summer, and outside Washington an old warehouse has been converted into a slice of Miami beach complete with processed sand and beautiful people.

The game's enthusiasts predict a surge of interest after the sport makes its Olympic debut on an artificial patch of beach in Atlanta this summer.

It's easy to see why. Combining wholesome, aerobic sex appeal with the sunny escapism of holiday brochures, beach volleyball seems the perfect sport for the MTV age — Baywatch with scoring.

It doesn't hurt that dashing and lunging about on a beach appears to be the quickest route to a perfect physique. The cognoscenti talk knowingly about "sand legs". "It's a function of working out on sand that we have really good legs and are very fit," Kirby explained. "It's survival of the fittest out there."

The US's glossy media seem suddenly to be arriving at a similar conclusion. Nancy Reno, the top-ranked women's player, was last week being plied with Herb Ritsch for the May issue of Vogue. Annie Leibowitz had already shot her for an upcoming edition of Vanity Fair.

BEACH volleyball even has the prestige for any self-respecting pro sport: a bitter feud between two rival organisations. The International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) is the dirtiest word (or four words) on the AFT tour — the one favoured by US stars such as Karolyin Kirby and Kent Steffes.

Under a compromise agreement the US Olympic team will feature representatives from both leagues, though Kirby has hardly extended an olive branch to his likely teammate, the veteran FIVB star Sirjin Smith. "Unfortunately his qualification weakens our Olympic team," Kirby declared flatly last week.

His remark did not sit altogether comfortably with the marketing boss Paul Block that his brand of mineral water fitter well with beach volleyball because both had a "nurturing, giving" image.

Of 12,000 entertained themselves playing beachball and doing the wave, McPeak and Reno slugged it out with Angela Rock and Liz Masakayan for the first prize of \$31,500 each. In a tight finish the top-seeded duo prevailed: a fitting result, a number of male spectators agreed, given the unsporting insistence of Rock and Masakayan on wearing lycra shorts over their swimming costumes.

Sri Lanka's batsmen wind up for the World Cup showdown

AS IF their own stuttering form were not a bad enough handicap, England go into their World Cup quarter-final against a Sri Lanka side who yesterday batted their way to the highest-ever total in a one-day international.

Topped by a relentless 145 off 115 balls from the former East batsman Aravinda de Silva, Sri Lanka swept aside the Kenya bowlers to reach 398 for five. Their eventual victory by 144 runs put Group A's top team in per-

fect heart for Faisalabad on Saturday, prompting a gloomy reaction from the manager of Group B's third-from-bottom side.

"We'll need to be at our best to beat them," Raymond Illingworth warned. "I've said all along they are dangerous."

In the other quarter-finals India play Pakistan, West Indies meet South Africa, and Australia take on New Zealand.

Mike Selvey, page 15

live climax to the Cricket World Cup

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Australia v New Zealand West Indies v South Africa

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G2 cover story

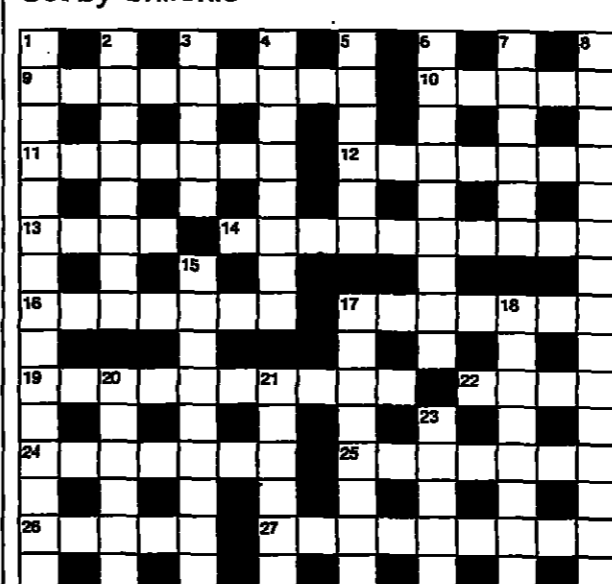


There were, in the first few weeks, an array of flowers left at the scene, mysteriously dropped by unseen hands in the dead of night. One paid tribute to the man on the back seat, who took two shots to his head and one in the stomach. "A wonderful man," it read.

G2 cover story

Guardian Crossword No 20,594

Set by Chiffonie



Across
9 A nomad can earn when involved in it (8)
10 Group leader has spoken about backing for piece of music (6)
11 Set a rag alight? That will make your eyes water! (4,3)
12 A swing made to catch the wind? Not half (7)
13 It is said to restrict precipitation (4)
14 It's risky to brush with vigour (5-3-2)
16 Stroke catches head of young crew for recompense (7)
17 Des gets such accommodation for noble lady (7)
19 Stop and pay for laboratory apparatus (10)
22 Ligitant's made to agonise, but not very loudly (4)
24 Ship's officer acquiring a plant (7)

25 The best drinks get knocked back for the ongoing revolution (7)
26 To be in power and in control is great (5)
27 A warning signal that's almost completely effortless (4,5)

Down
1 You'll probably stamp this for an eccentric getting a painting job over (7,8)
2 A girl eats it for amusement (8)
3 A barrier that's hard to trim (5)
4 No honours left in credentials (8)
5 Cats get it wrong, still (6)
6 A settlement for race with clean disposition (9)
7 Best takes redhead for partner (6)
8 A powerful tug from a very supportive person (5,2,8)
15 It will help you remember the late master's character (9)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,593

Solution tomorrow
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